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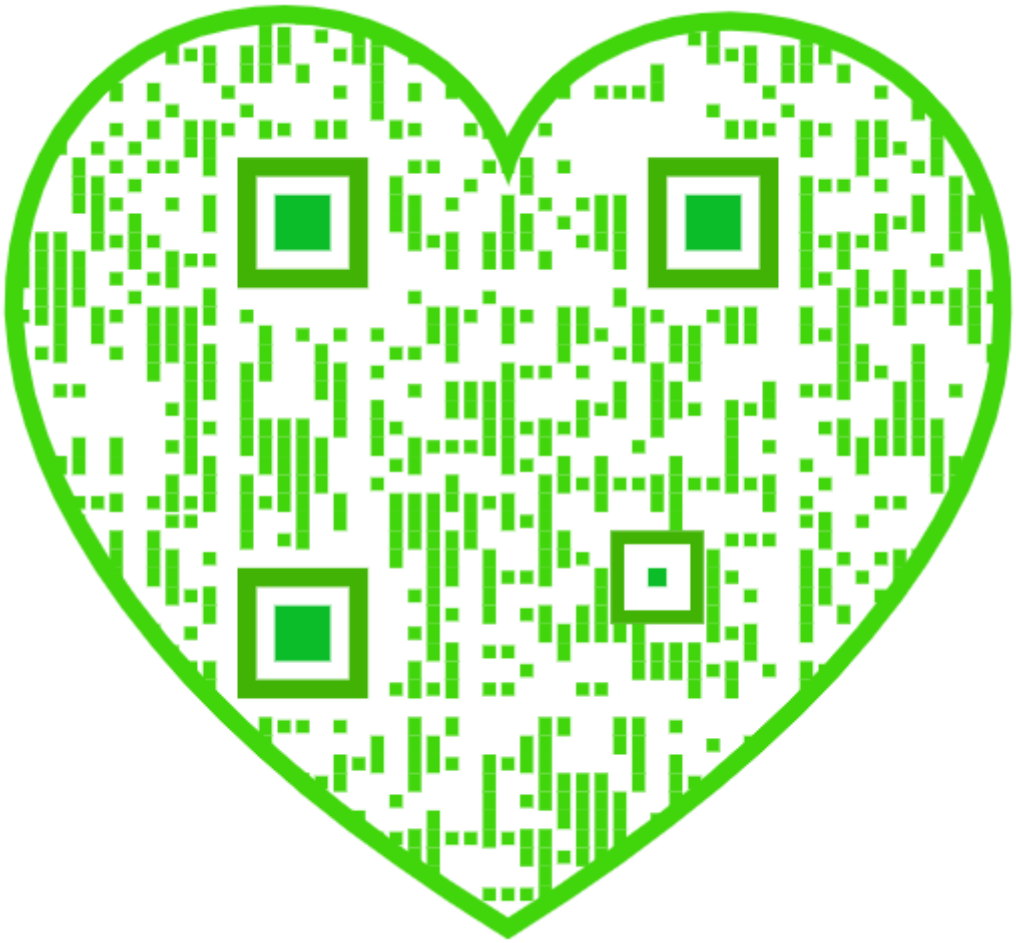

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# ORIGIN AND HISTORY
## OF ALL
# BREEDS OF POULTRY

Illustrated in Colors

Trustworthy Information Regarding the Origin and History of all Recognized Varieties of Chickens, Ducks and Geese

PRICE $1.00

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# PREFACE

In offering the contents of this volume for the consideration of the reader, we have endeavored to obtain the latest and most trustworthy information in reference to this important subject. This has been a task far beyond the conception of the ordinary breeder of fowls, and it has taken us years of time and much hard labor to get together the desired information and put same into a comprehensive form for the reader.

The colored plates with which this volume is illustrated, are, we believe, the best that has ever been published, and will be found of valuable assistance to both the old and new fancier, as they give the correct color, markings and shape of the variety they represent.

The poultry business is today one of the largest industries in the United States, and the raising of poultry can be made a pleasant and profitable vocation with as little effort, experience and capital as any work of like importance, and it is hoped that the earnest seeker after knowledge of poultry raising will find help in the careful perusal of these pages.

The chapters on mating will be found of great assistance to those who are endeavoring to produce better birds, or birds that will conform more closely to the requirements of the American Standard of Perfection. We are quite sure that a study of the contents will teach the reader what it has cost others—time, money and labor to learn.

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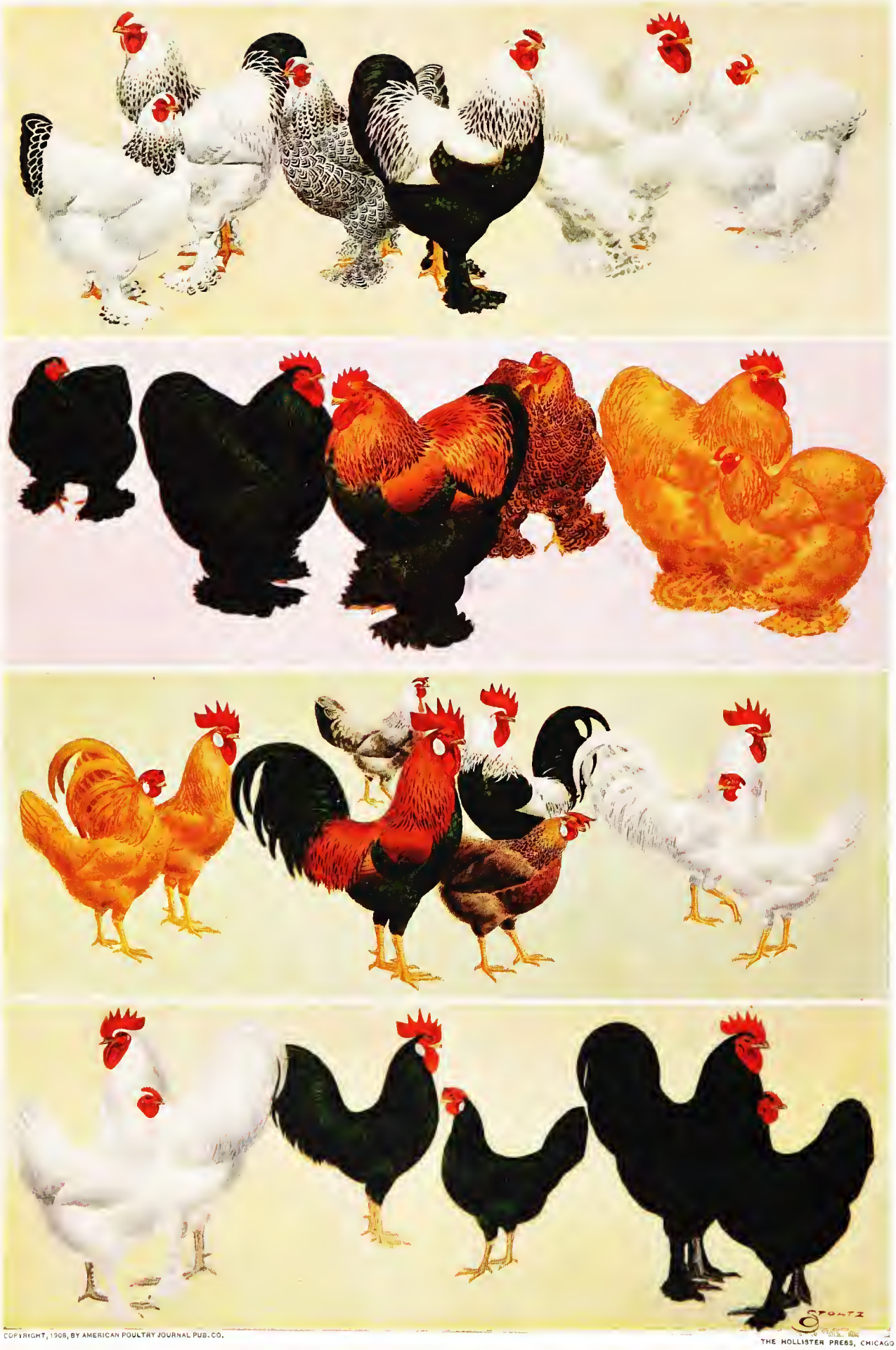

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FIRST PANEL—Reading from left to right. Light Brahmas, Dark Brahmas, White Cochins. SECOND PANEL—Black Cochins, Partridge Cochins, Buff Cochins. THIRD PANEL—Single Comb Buff Leghorns, Single Comb Brown Leghorns, Silver Duckwing Leghorns, White Leghorns. FOURTH PANEL—White Langshans, Single Comb Black Leghorns, Black Langshans.

# LIGHT AND DARK BRAHMAS

**The Source of the Light and Dark Brahma—Proven Facts which have been in Dispute for Many Years—History of the Light Brahma Since its Introduction into America—The Dark Brahma Originated in this Country and Perfected in England—Breed Characteristics of the Most Popular of the Asiatics and its Classmate.**

IN ENGLAND the origin of the Light Brahma is and has been for years a disputed question, here in America the evidence is conclusive to the student of history that the Chamberlain introduction forms the foundation of the present Light Brahma. Mr. Harrison Weir, the eminent English writer and artist, holds to the theory that the Burnham Gray Shanghais, nine head of which were presented to Queen Victoria by Mr. Burnham in 1852, were of the original Brahma stock. Of this foundation stock Mr. Burnham wrote in 1855:

"An ambitious sea captain arrived in New York from Shanghai, bringing with him about 100 head of China fowls of all grades and colors. Of these I selected a few gray birds that were very large. I tried them with other gray stock I had." [It is said that Mr. Burnham crossed one of these males upon a Buff Cochin hen, thus making a cross between two Chinese breeds.—Editor.] "I soon found a lot of birds to dispose of, to which I gave what I deemed the only true and appropriate title, to-wit, the 'Gray Shanghais.'"

These fowls had single combs, and while possessing Light Brahma color markings, to a considerable degree were very unlike the stock then being bred by Mr. N. H. Chamberlain, of Hartford, Conn. American fanciers have never taken Mr. Burnham's statements seriously. Mr. Charles Knox, then of Hartford, Conn., gives to history this unqualified statement:

"Early in the fall of 1847, while I was clerk on the propeller Sachem, of the Hartford and New York line, Captain George Deming, master, on invitation of a friend, I went on board a full-rigged East Indiaman, lying near Old Slip, East river, to look at a remarkable collection of poultry we had heard about. I never knew or thought to ask what port the vessel sailed from, nor her name, for the class all bore the same name in common conversation—'East Indiaman.' Among the poultry I saw two pairs, one gray, the other red, which attracted a great deal of attention on account of their large size. After some trouble, I learned that they were to be exhibited at Franklin market. The next trip, after reporting to Mr. Chamberlain, who had some time previous requested me to keep a lookout for something of this description, and wished to get some new breed, at his request, on my return to New York, I went and bought the gray pair and took them to him at Hartford."

Mr. Knox was positive in his statement that these gray fowls very closely resembled the Light Brahma of today.

Fortunately, there are those still living who were very closely and prominently identified with the early history of the Light Brahma—I. K. Felch and Philander Williams among the number. These grand old men and devoted fanciers are today proud of their production of more than half a century ago, and are still devoted to their best loved breed of fowls. These men have the esteem and the confidence of all fanciers the world over. We asked Mr. Felch to give us the important facts, as he knows them. He says:

"Notwithstanding the many efforts to divert the credit from those entitled to it, and to cloud the origin of the Light Brahma, by people many of whom have been born since the breed was christened, the facts and records remain that the fowls securing the name of Brahma Pootras, and finally discarding all forced descriptive adjectives, and finally becoming known as the Brahma fowl, have absorbed all others that were previously known as the Gray Chittagongs. These Chittagongs lost their identity when the Brahmas secured recognition, also the prestige they had previously enjoyed, and became the female blood used for crosses with the Brahma males. Their progeny were bred back to the peacomb males, found on board the India ship in New York in 1847, which were purchased for one Mr. Chamberlain, of hospital fame, in Hartford, Conn. Mr. Chamberlain bred them for two years or more, to sell to Mr. Virgil Cornish, who was the first exhibitor of them at the Boston Fitchburg depot show in 1850. These were christened Brahma Poortas, or Short Leg Chittagongs. The records of that show reveal the facts that these birds were different in many respects from the Gray Chittagongs, a Chinese fowl that was then the favorite—so much so that the jealousy of the breeder of them forced the descriptive sentence I have named above. The fowls christened as Brahmas had a pea comb, were clearer in color, less angular in their conformation, and admitted to be different in all respects; yet their importers were forced, for the time being, to allow them to be known as Short Leg Chittagongs. But they very soon shuffled off this objectionable qualification, to be known as the Brahmas, and to see the breeders who had so strongly opposed them showing their Chittagongs as single-comb Brahmas, the last time, I believe, at the second show in Chicago in 1866. This fact, I fear, has caused many writers to attribute the Brahma origin to the haphazard matings of the Chinese birds, they becoming popular at the time of which I write. By the introduction of the Brahma all these others were put aside. This dropped the Chittagongs into the condition of being used as blood food to maintain the vigor of these new aspirants, which was resorted to by many breeders. The breed was known as the Brahma fowl up to 1866, when the Dark Brahma showed up in New York. Then the adjective 'Light' was prefixed to designate the difference of the two varieties. The origin of this newcomer, the Dark Brahma, was the result of a brood of chickens that were bred from a Gray Chittagong male with the Marsh Shanghai, these latter known as Gray Shanghai, and subsequently as Gray Cochins. This brood was sent to one Bailey, of London, England, by George P. Burnham, of Melrose, Mass., in 1854. The English breeder, by the aid of the peacomb Brahmas, perfected them so that in 1866 the improved product was sent to us to be

shown in America that year for the first time as prize winners. Behind the Chamberlain purchase of the Light Brahma and the record of the Dark Brahma here given, no living breeder can show one fact of record. The early breeders, men of my age (71 years), know this to be a statement of fact as to the Chamberlain strain. But in 1866, at the same exhibit where the Dark Brahmas appeared, was shown a Light Brahma called 'Autocrat.' This male, which won prize, was purchased in the Fulton market by Mr. Estes, who edited the first Standard of Excellence. This bird in question was said to have been imported by the merchant of whom he was bought. The bird was presented to Philander Williams, who bred him to the best females he could procure, and through his progeny became the foundation of the famous Autocrat strain. These two strains are the only original and authentic two strains—the Chamberlain (now Felch) and the Autocrat strain. But since the influence of the American Poultry Association forcing all strains to standard color and type, the amalgamators of the two strains have been merged into different families, and the influence upon their breeding has been varied. The early breeders who exerted influence upon the breed are: Chamberlain, the original buyer; Virgil Cornish, the first exhibitor; Childs, of Rhode Island; Williams, Corney and Felch, of Massachusetts. Since that time these fowls have found their way into every state in the Union and every country of the old world.''

The fact is undisputable that the Chamberlain stock was the original Light Brahma.

### HISTORY OF THE LIGHT BRAHMA

Since its introduction in America the Light Brahma has been a popular fowl. Many breeds and varieties have come and gone, but the old Light Brahma remains, the love and pride of a host of fanciers, and the mainstay of a large number of market poultrymen.

As an exhibition fowl, the Light Brahma occupies a prominent place. This large, massive bird, beautiful in its color markings of pure white and black, is very attractive in the show pen. In New England its popularity is the greatest, both as a fancier's and ultility fowl. It has been truly said that there is a time in the life of every fancier when he has a desire to breed the Light Brahma. There is a pleasing personality about the Light Brahma—stately and majestic, and easy repose.

As an egg producer the breed holds an enviable record. This fowl produces a majority of its eggs in the cold months, when the product commands the highest market price. Many fail in egg production with these fowls because of a lack of knowledge as to how to properly feed. An overfed Brahma hen is an idler and is unproductive. As soft roasters no other breed or variety can equal the Brahma, nor are in such demand in the best markets of the country.

It can be stated as a fact that the latter day Cochanizing of the Light Brahma by many breeders has impaired the laying power of the breed, where so bred. Mr. Felch and Mr. Williams and a number of other friends of the breed have strongly opposed this action, and have retained the Brahma in its true form. This Cochanizing of the breed has, too, affected it as an exhibition bird. The West will have none of the Cochanized stock.

### BREED CHARACTERISTICS

Standard weights of Light Brahmas: Cock, twelve pounds; cockerel, ten pounds; hen, nine and one-half pounds; pullet, eight pounds.

Disqualifying weights: Cock not weighing nine pounds; hen not weighing seven and one-half pounds; cockerel not weighing seven and one-half pounds; pullet not weighing six pounds.

In shape the head should be moderate in size. The pea comb should be small, setting firmly and evenly on the head, lower and narrower at front and rear than in the center. It has the appearance of three small single combs joined together at base and rear, the longest and highest in the middle, each evenly serrated. The serrations of the front and rear are smaller than those in the middle. The breast should be full and prominent, the back short and broad. Neck well arched, with hackle abundant in the male, flowing well over the shoulders. Body deep and well rounded. This is very important. Wings small and carried rather high. Tail medium in size; in male, carried well upright. In female, tail carried high enough to continue the concave sweep of the back. The thighs must be stout and covered with soft feathers. Toes well feathered on outside. In color the Light Brahma is pure white and black in body, breast and thighs. Under the wings it may be white, bluish-white or slate. Wings, neck and tail are positive black and white. Hackle web white with a black stripe down each feather, half or more its length, tapering to a point near the extremity. The wing bows are white, except front, where some black is allowed. Primaries, black or nearly so, with white edging on lower edge of lower web. In the secondaries the lower portion of the lower web is white, the rest being black. Tail black. Sickle feathers glossy greenish-black.

Standard weight of Dark Brahmas: Cock, eleven pounds; hen, eight and one-half pounds; cockerel, nine pounds; pullet, seven pounds.

Disqualifying weights: Cock not weighing nine pounds; hen not weighing seven pounds; cockerel not weighing seven and one-half pounds; pullet not weighing five and one-half pounds.

The Dark Brahma should be identical in shape with the Light Brahma. In color the cock is silvery white, striped with black in upper part of body, including neck-hackle, back and saddle. Breast, pure black. Wing bows, silvery white. Primaries, black, except narrow edging of white on lower edge of lower web. Secondaries, black, except lower half of lower web, which is white till near the end of feather. Here the white terminates abruptly, thus leaving the end of the feather black. Tail, glossy greenish-black.

In color the female is a pure steel gray.

# THE COCHIN FAMILY

**The Source of the Various Varieties of the Cochin Family—Found in a Crude State Throughout the Chinese Empire, and Bearing Several Local Names—Were of Several Colors and Carried both Single and Pea Combs—The Present-Day Cochin a Fowl Possessed of the Original Type—How the Breed Characteristics have been Fixed—Popularity of the Breed—Unsurpassed as an Exhibition Fowl.**

In 1843, at the conclusion of the war between England and China, the northern part of China, including Shanghai, was thrown open to the vesselmen of Europe. This was the beginning of a new era in the poultry business of England and America. The Englishman, always a fancier, was quick to appreciate the worth of the Chinese fowls. Fowls of such size and color markings had never before been seen by the vesselmen, who lost no time in making purchases and taking the new and wonderful fowls to England and India. Among the first lot of these fowls taken to England was a consignment which was presented to Queen Victoria, in 1843. It may have been the importer's love for his noble and gracious sovereign, or maybe it was a shrewd business calculation which prompted the presentation to the Queen of these rare fowls. If the last named motive prompted the gift, it was indeed a wise business calculation. The fowls created a great sensation. We are told by Tennan, in 1856, that "the poultry world went stark mad. Fabulous prices were paid for specimens of the breed. A dozen Cochin-China fowls sold for as much as a good farm was worth." Saunders said, "a cock and two hens were thought to be cheap if bought for less than $250." Avil reported a sale of two males and four females at 240 pounds, English, or about $1,200. Queen Victoria, seeking to confer a blessing upon her people, saw to it that all eggs from her yards were placed in proper hands, that the breed might be extended throughout the land. The Queen's fowls were portrayed in the London Illustrated News of December 22, 1843, this being the first illustration of the Cochin-China fowl given to the western world.

Mr. Tegetmen, the noted English authority, questioned the appropriateness of the name Cochin-China, holding, and seemingly with correctness, that they were a variety local to Shanghai. He says:

"As in the case of many other varieties of fowls, Cochins are known popularly by a name to which they have no claim. Robert Fortune, who passed many years in various parts of China, says: 'I firmly believe that what are called Cochin-Chinas and Shanghais are one and the same. One thing is certain—the breed you have in this country (England) are plentiful in and about Shanghai.' They were discovered after the war, and frequently brought to this country, and taken to India by captains of trading vessels. Was not this the date of their introduction to England? And what grounds has anyone for supposing they ever saw Cochin-China? It may be thought that this variety might have been earlier known, owing to our long established commerce with Macoa and Canton, but Mr. Fortune says this is a breed little known in those warmer parts of China, and that, in fact, the southern Chinese were as much struck with the size of the breed as we were. He adds: 'The Shanghai breed seems to be more common about Shanghai than anywhere else in the north, but I found it over all the low country of that part of China. The southern breed has long been well known to sea captains and English residents, but there is nothing very marked in their character.'

"Having stated the date of introduction and the place from whence they were derived, Mr. Fortune informs us as follows, respecting the characteristics and treatment of the birds as they occur at Shanghai itself: 'The Shanghai breed occurs both with feathered and unfeathered legs, but more frequently with unfeathered. The most admired kinds are the game-colored ones. However, I am safe in saying that the Chinese do not attach as much importance as we do to purity of color. Large size and large eggs are what they most admire. Although it is certain that the Shanghai fowl is frequently met with in its native district with unfeathered legs, even more frequently than with feathered or booted legs, nevertheless, in our country, fashion has decided most imperatively in favor of the feathered leg birds, to which alone prizes are now awarded at our poultry shows.'

"In accordance with the facts that these birds were imported from Shanghai, and were comparatively unknown in Cochin-China, it has been thought by some writers desirable to endeavor to correct the popular, but erroneous, name of Cochin, and to substitute that of the port from whence they were originally obtained. But the effort has not been crowned with success, and to a large majority of poultry breeders they are known only as Cochins."

Mr. Geo. E. Haight, traveler, fancier and writer, visited China and the Straits districts, and thus wrote a decade ago:

"I believe I promised in my last letter to let you know if I found anything new in Southern China in relation to poultry. Although there are no distinct breed of fowls bred or known in China by the Chinese, there are yet a great many specimens to be seen in all parts of the empire, and so closely do they resemble each other in general appearance that it is quite difficult to understand why distinctions should be made; but I find that the different names of all Chinese fowls have been given them by the different foreigners who have brought them from various places in Asia, and that if they have procured them at Shanghai they have called them Shanghai fowls (red, gray, buff, as the case may be), and if from Hong-kong, the Hong-kong fowls, and so on, until we have a dozen or more different names for the same variety. They differ in some minor detail, it is true, for no two can be found of exactly the same color. Some are a chestnut color, others darker, and some quite light, yet they can all be seen in the same yards together, bred at random, and producing many different colors; but in size and shape they are about the same, and are known simply as Chinese fowls.

"In various parts of China (and intermixed with other fowls) can be seen a large, faded, buff-colored fowl, the male bird being a light buff with black penciled neck-hackle, dark wings and black tails with a greenish cast. Some of them have single combs, others resemble the pea comb. Their legs are yellow and well feathered. The hen is two or three shades lighter (in fact, almost white), and has a heavy body, short, yellow, well-feathered legs, black hackle, dark gray wings and tail. These fowls will weigh about eighteen or twenty pounds

per pair. From fowls of this description I am convinced the Light Brahma originated. I have talked a great deal with old residents of China, some of whom know what our Light Brahmas are and have seen and raised them, and they all agree that they came from the fowls I have described. I am convinced that Dr. Brown was the first to notice them in China, and to keep them separate as far back as 1840, and that he was one of the first (if not the first) to introduce them in America when he left China on a visit to his father in Connecticut in January, 1847, bringing a number with him.

"There is an impression in the minds of many breeders at home and abroad that all our present varieties of Cochins are descended from the original Cochin-China fowls sent by the British ambassador from China to Her Majesty, Victoria, of England, in 1843. This is hardly possible, for the Queen did not exhibit her Cochin-Chinas until April, 1846, at the Royal Dublin Agricultural Society, although prizes were offered for Malays and other Asiatic breeds at the London poultry show, held at the Zoölogical Gardens, London, in 1845. Between 1843 and 1846 several private purchases were made from ships coming from Chinese ports. Sir Richard Ansley O'Donnell, of Newport, Mayo, Ireland, had in 1846, a nice flock of deep golden buffs with small single combs and wattles, black penciled hackles, short, black tails, smooth, yellow legs, large size of body and slightly tapering to the tail.

"At the same time William Mairs, a Scotch gentleman living two miles from Newport, had a few Chinese fowls, known afterward as Gray Shanghais. Our informant, Joseph Wallace, while temporarily residing at Newport, received a present of the Shanghais, and many a time, with young Sir George, they tried the mettle of the buffs, as they were pugnaciously inclined. The buffs possessed the same general characteristics as those bred by J. Joseph Nolan, of Dublin, to whom Lord Heytsbury, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, gave the first pair that were presented to him by the Queen in 1846. The Gray Shanghais were more rangy in form, the feathering soft and loose, and a few downy feathers appeared on their legs.

"In connection with the Royal Cochin-China fowls, it may be surmised that the original stock was in the hands of others besides those of her majesty before 1846, though Mr. Dickson, the English poultry author of that time, in his work, published in 1847, makes no allusion to the Queen's fine fowls. This strange fact is accounted for by an old English fancier, who says that Mr. Dickson's work was prepared several years before the advent of the Queen's Cochin-Chinas, and that owing to the delay of publication, absence and sickness of the author, it went to press without mention being made of these rare and grand fowls, for, on no other reasonable grounds could such palpable inadvertency be excusable."

Thus rests the case of the origin of the Cochins. The facts are clearly shown.

## THE PRESENT DAY COCHIN FOWL

America and England each has its type of Cochin. These types differ greatly in form and feathering. American fanciers fancy the short legs; full, soft, fluff and hock; full, round breast and the forward carriage. The English demand that the Cochin be a fowl of long legs; long, stiff vulture hocks; flat, high carriage breast.

As has been shown, the Cochins, as they came from China originally, were of various colors and shades—red or cinnamon buff, brown or partridge, pale or lemon buff. The White and Black Cochins were received several years later.

Crude, indeed, were the original Cochins. Out of chaos the fanciers have brought and perfected the beautiful Cochin of today. We of the present generation owe these faithful, earnest, skillful fanciers a very large debt of gratitude. Let us guard well their handiwork. It is a valuable heritage. It is our duty to preserve the priceless legacy.

The American Standard of Perfection recognizes the following varieties of Cochins: Buff, Partridge, White and Black. The Buffs are the most popular, being the most extensively bred and exhibited, followed closely by the Partridge variety. The Whites, once very popular, for a time in retirement, are again being bred and shown to a considerable extent. The Blacks have never been as popular as they deserve to be, the introduction of the Langshan being a severe blow to this variety.

The Pea-comb Partridge Cochins, originated in 1871 by Mr. Chas. F. Edmonds, of Melrose, Mass. They were a cross of the Partridge Cochins and the Dark Brahmas. They did not meet with favor, and it is doubtful if any are in existence today.

## BREED CHARACTERISTICS

Standard weight for Cochins, other than Black:

Cock, 11 pounds; cockerel, 9 pounds; hen, 8½ pounds.

Disqualifying weights: Cock not weighing 9 pounds; cockerel not weighing 7 pounds; hen not weighing 7 pounds; pullet not weighing 5 pounds.

Standard weight for Black Cochins:

Cock, 10½ pounds; cockerel, 9 pounds; hen, 8½ pounds; pullet, 7 pounds.

Disqualifying weights: Cock not weighing 9 pounds; cockerel not weighing 7 pounds; hen not weighing 7 pounds; pullet not weighing 5 pounds.

The Standard Cochin is a massive, full-feathered fowl, with dignified carriage. The body of the male should be broad, deep and well rounded from point of breast to abdomen; from breastbone to tail, broad and well rounded, depending more on length of feathering for fullness than on muscular development. Back, very short and rounded. Legs set well apart and very short. Comb, single, upright, five points. Wattles and ear lobes, red.

The female should correspond in a feminine way with the male, being shorter and rounded, presenting a deep, plump appearance.

The Buff should be a clear, golden buff throughout in plumage color. Few there are, however, which do not show some black in wings and tail. This is not as objectionable as white, which is found in tail and wings and undercolor of some buffs.

The White Cochin should be white throughout. In Black Cochins the plumage should be one uniform, lustrous beetle-green shade of black on the surface, with sound undercolor to skin.

Mr. W. H. Harrison, Jr., Toledo, Iowa, who is closely identified with the production of the modern Partridge Cochin, responds to our request for a few words regarding this member of the Cochin family:

"It has been a pleasure to all lovers of the beautiful to watch the wonderful improvement of modern Partridge Cochins as they have been developed by American breeders during the past ten years. It has been no easy task to evolve the full-feathered, low, blocky, rich mahogany red females of today from the close-feathered, high-stationed, light-brown, clay-breasted, lemon-hackled hens of a dozen years ago, or to change the males, with their lemon hackles, their long legs and close feathers, to the present-day ideal cock birds, with their short shanks, broad, low bodies, with feathers as fluffy

and as long as those of their buff brothers, and with hackle and saddle with dark red tips and edges.

"There are breeders who still cling to the old-style Cochins, but they have to sell their stock at farm prices. We now only occasionally see a ribbon on the pen of a Cochin of the old type.

"There are few varieties of standard bred fowls that will attract so much attention in the show room as strictly modern Partridge Cochins. The Partridge Cochin male should have breast, body, thighs, shanks and tail of rich black feathers, with a green sheen. The saddle and hackle striped with greenish-black, tipped and edged with deep, rich red. The back of deep brownish-red. The females should present an almost uniform shade of rich mahogany red all over, with the exception of the black tail, which is almost hidden with the long cushion feathers, and the hackle, striped with black. Each feather should be penciled with not less than two bands that conform to the shape of the feather. The best penciled specimens will show three, four and even five perfect bands of black or dark brown penciling. The hackle should be tipped and edged with rich red."

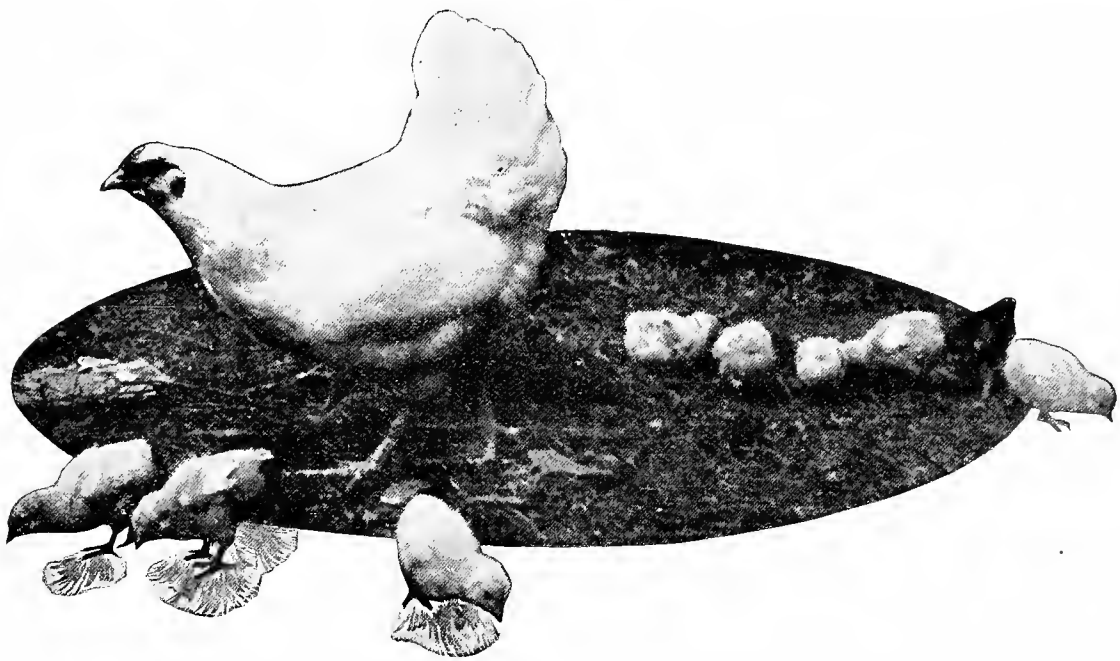
### AS BREEDERS' AND FANCIERS' FOWLS

The Cochin is highly prized on account of its ability and disposition to yield a goodly number of eggs during the winter months. As a market fowl they are not commercially rated as among the most profitable. In the very nature of things a Cochin is slow, comparatively, in maturing.

For the cottagers the Cochins are especially desirable. They are restful, contented and easily confined and handled. They yield a bountiful supply of eggs and meat for the table.

As an exhibition fowl they are unapproached. No other fowl can compare with a typical Cochin in show room attractiveness.

Eggs for hatching and breeding and exhibition stock are in great demand, and at prices far in advance of those secured for eggs and stock of many of the other breeds and varieties. There are pleasure and profit in the breeding of the Cochins.



# PLYMOUTH ROCKS

**Source of the Various Varieties of the Plymouth Rock Family—The First Fowls to bear this Honored Name were a High-bred Cross, a mingling of Cochin-China, Dorking, Great Malay and Wild Indian Bloods—They were first Shown at Boston in 1848-9 by Dr. John C. Bennett, the Originator—The true facts Regarding the Origin of the Present Race of Barred Plymouth Rocks.**

As firmly anchored in the hearts and affections of the American fanciers and breeders as the rugged rocks from which they take their name are held in the stormy Atlantic, the Plymouth Rock fowls are the nation's pride and boast. We all love them. We created them. They are all our own. The Barred Plymouth Rock is today the most plentiful of all standard-bred fowls. They are to be found in the yards of the ultra-fanciers, on the farms, and in the cottagers' homes. The supply of choice Barred Rocks for breeding and exhibition purposes is not equal to the demand. Prices for extra choice specimens of this variety range higher than for like specimens of other varieties and breeds. They are bread-winners. They have never disappointed the breeders who have given them proper care. They are immensely popular on the farms, and for this reason Barred Rock breeders can dispose of their surplus stock to better advantage than can the breeders of other varieties of fowls.

The fowls upon which the name Plymouth Rocks was first bestowed were only a high-bred cross, shown on Boston Common in 1848-9 by Dr. John C. Bennett. They were not shown again, and disappeared. They were a cross of Asiatic fowls and the Dorking. Dr. Bennett in 1853 thus described his creation. Note carefully his description of these fowls, which in no way resemble the Barred Rock of today. Dr. Bennett said:

"I have given the name Plymouth Rock to a very extra breed of fowls which I produced by crossing a cockerel of Baylies' importation of Cochin-China with a hen, a cross between the fawn-colored Dorking, the Great Malay, and the Wild Indian. Her weight is six pounds and seven ounces. The Plymouth Rock fowl, then, is in reality, one half Cochin-China, one-fourth Fawn-colored Dorking, and one-eighth Wild Indian; having five primitive bloods—Shanghai, Malay, Game, Turkish and Indian—traceable by referring to the history of these breeds and their crosses, respectively. There are several of these; plumage is rich and variegated; the cocks usually red or speckled, and the pullets darkish brown. They are very fine fleshed, and early ready for the table. Their legs are very large, and usually blue or green, but occasionally yellow or white, generally having five toes upon each foot. Some have their legs feathered, but this is not usual. They have large and single combs and wattles, large cheeks, rather short tails, and small wings in proportion to their bodies. They are domestic, and not so destructive to gardens as smaller fowls. There is the same uniformity in size and general appearance, at the same age of the chicks, as in those of the pure bloods of primary races. The demand for this breed has exceeded all others during the season, and they have been sent into most of the New England states and western New York."

A Mr. Burnham, in a communication to the Massachusetts Plowman, a little later in the same year thus described his Plymouth Rocks:

"The cock here represented weighs nine pounds and a quarter, and the two pullets thirteen pounds. I am daily more pleased with this fine species. I have the Plymouth Rocks at all ages, from a few days up to about eight months old, and my specimens embrace five or six broods. The color of all of them is particularly uniform, and I am satisfied that the variety (or breed) is now well established. The body plumage on the pullets is a rich deep brown, speckled with golden-tipped feathers; the under-down is black (or a deep blue-black), and the tail is brown, black and gold.

"The legs of the pullets are very dark colored, and one-half of them, or more, are five-toed, but some of them do not come so. The comb is single, and the wattles thin and small. The head and neck are well formed, the legs are shorter than the average of fowls, and the hens are not only deep and broad-chested, but the bodies are proportionately long.

"The roosters are noble birds—among the finest I have ever met with. I have two well-grown crowers, very similar in their appearance, carriage, color, size and general points.

"I am satisfied that the Plymouth Rock fowl, properly bred, will become a most valuable one to the poulterer or the agriculturist; and I believe that a pair of the specimens I now have will weigh eighteen pounds or more by next spring. I deem this ample, for a size, and, with the other good qualities of these fowls for laying, quietness, easy keeping and hardiness, I think these qualities will cause them to rank among the very best fowls in our country, eventually.

"The plumage of the roosters is dark red hackles, on neck and rump; the legs are bright yellow, slightly feathered; the body dark red and green, relieved with stray feathers of a golden tint; the under portion of the body and breast is a rich, deep, glossy blue-black—partaking of the plumage of the Wild Indian fowl, the original cross. When in full plumage the tail feathers of the male are heavy, which gives him not only a much larger proportionate appearance, but very greatly improves his form."

Mr. Bennett's production never attained the dignity of a race of fowls, and in a very few years became extinct, the first fowls to bear the honored name of Plymouth Rocks being but a passing shadow.

The nucleus of the breed as known today made its appearance in the exhibition of a trio of fowls "in color bluish-gray, barred in lines of a darker blue," exhibited by D. A. Upham at Worcester, Mass., in the show season of 1868-9. These were christened Plymouth Rocks. They were the first fowls of the name to become thoroughly established as to size, shape and color markings. They were the American fanciers' first creation. This trio was purchased by Mr. C. C. Lowring, and were put into the yards of the late Mark Pitman, who carefully bred them until 1876, when the entire flock was sold to I. K. Felch, of Natick, Mass. These birds were subjected to matings of stock known as the Gray and Drake strains. Eight of the best birds were placed on the

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FIRST PANEL—Reading from left to right. White Plymouth Rocks, Barred Plymouth Rocks, Buff Plymouth Rocks. SECOND PANEL—Buff Wyandottes, Silver Wyandottes, White Wyandottes, Partridge Wyandottes. THIRD PANEL—Silver Penciled Wyandottes, Columbian Wyandottes, Golden Wyandottes. FOURTH PANEL—Black Javas, Rhode Island Reds, Mottled Javas.

town place of Mr. H. B. May, where these cross matings were made, the Mark Pitman birds being given the control of blood lines, which in 1878 produced the Plymouth Rock proper, a race of fowls in color bluish-gray, barred in deep blue lines. Specimens of this breeding were largely the winners in the exhibition halls for the following ten years, and were the foundation of the crosses resorted to by several breeders who have become promineutly identified with the breed. These were the birds that became noted as the Essex strain. Their fame spread, and this brought to the surface many who were anxious to secure the houor of originating the breed. Several so-called strains were brought to public notice, each claiming a somewhat different crossing of the pure blood, or established Plymouth Rock fowls—all the color of the American Dominiques—which must be conceded as the source of supply of the color of the Plymouth Rocks. These so-called strains were made as follows:

No. 1. Black Spanish sire with White Cochin hens. These half-bloods were bred to American Dominiques.

No. 2. Black Spanish male bred to Gray-Dorkings, top-crossed with American Dominiques. These were known as the Gray strain of Plymouth Rocks. Many showed the salmon breast of the Dorking.

No. 3. American Dominique males with Buff Cochin hens —the color results being the influence of the Dominique blood. These were a controlling force in what was afterwards known as the Randall strain.

No. 4. White Birminghams (an English fowl) with Black Spanish, the result subjected to Dominique males.

No. 5. White Birmingham-Black Java females produced from the No. 4 groups. The first cross produced birds white, black and Dominique. It was these that were selected and bred to group No. 4. A large proportion of the stock produced by this mating came in the Dominique color, and gave the best results of any of the foregoing mating or crosses.

No. 6. A Mr. Drake bred into this Upham creation Dark Brahma blood, producing one of the most phenomenal trios, and one that was never beaten in the show room. It is said that from black females which came from this cross were produced a large portion of the winners of that time. At the death of Mr. Drake the four females went into Mr. Philander Williams' hands. One other male, the product of a Dark Brahma hen and a Pitman male, produced a cockerel that was never defeated in the show room. These were incidents of the time between 1869 and 1878.

These are the facts, as nearly as can at this date be ascertained regarding the origin of the Barred Plymouth Rocks.

Mr. C. E. Thorn, in 1886, in The Complete Poultry Book, said:

"Several years after the extinction of Dr. Bennett's Plymouth Rocks, a new breed sprang up, apparently simultaneously, from several parts of New England, and, as a matter of course, as soon as the breed had had time to prove that the most valuable cross of a century had been made, numerous claimants arose for the honor of having originated it, and a second 'Light Brahma' war was waged with great determination, one party claiming that a Mr. Spaulding, of Putman, Conn., produced the genuine Plymouth Rock in 1866 by a cross of a hawk-colored dunghill cock and an Asiatic hen. Another party claimed to having used Dominique and Black Java fowls in the making of the breed. Upon this point the editor of Poultry World wrote in March, 1876:

"When the smoke has cleared away it will be found that this breed (Plymouth Rocks), has had several independent origins. As oil and potash may be united and soap made anywhere, so hawk-colored barnyard fowls may be amalgamated with some Asiatic variety in any state in the Union and Plymouth Rocks formed.

"Mr. A. H. Drake, of Stoughton, Mass., has a strain of Plymouth Rocks which he has bred for nineteen years, which has not a drop of the Spaulding blood, nor the slightest admixture from any other strain. We have word from a Pennsylvania correspondent that on farms in Bucks county, that state, fowls have been found almost from time immemorial, that were identical with Plymouth Rocks, and were produced, incidentally, by the introduction of Asiatic blood into the common hawk-colored stock of the county. It must be kept in mind that upon many farms in all parts of the land, twenty, fifty, or one hundred years ago, hawk-colored fowls were numerous and common. The modern Dominique fowl is nothing more or less than a hawk-colored dung-hill bird, improved by cultivation. For that matter the Leghorn is a genuine Italian dung-hill fowl, improved."

At the time the editor of the Poultry World wrote the above lines he was in the thick of the fight then being waged as to the origin of the Barred Rocks, and can not, as a matter of fact, be considered a reliable historian. Still there is a great deal of truth in what he says. The truth of the facts as we have here given them will stand any test of the searcher after historical truth may make.

### WHITE PLYMOUTH ROCKS

White Plymouth Rocks made their appearance in 1875, in the yards of Mr. Oscar F. Frost, of Monmouth, Me., a breeder of Barred Rocks. Mr. Frost claimed they were sports from his Barred Rocks. He exhibited some of them at Bangor, Me., in 1876. Referring to that exhibit Mr. I. K. Felch says:

"I was acting as judge at that exhibition. A trio of these White Rocks were offered to me, but I foolishly declined to accept them. However, I advised Mr. Frost to continue to breed them, for, as I told him, he would have no trouble with the color. These are the fowls which waded through deep mire in subsequent years, before they were admitted to the Standard and their good qualities became known, and the variety accepted by fanciers. The Barred and the Whites are the only Plymouth Rocks of absolute purity of Plymouth Rock blood. All others are of recent origin, and the original birds known to many of the present generation. While known as Plymouth Rocks they (the Buff, Partridge and Silver Penciled) have not a drop of Plymouth Rock blood in their veins. They are interlopers in the family—adopted children."

### BUFF, PARTRIDGE AND SILVER PENCILED VARIETIES

These varieties of the Plymouth Rock family are creations of today. The foundation of the Partridge variety is the Partridge Cochin, many different crosses being employed. The Silver Penciled variety is founded on the Dark Brahma.

There were two original strains of the Buff Rocks. J. D. Wilson, Worcester, Mass., was the originator of one of these strains. His were produced by Buff Cochin-Light Brahma crosses. At Fall River, Mass., N. B. Aldrich and R. C. Buffington produced birds known as Buff Rocks. They were a combination of White Rocks and Rhode Island Reds. These different strains were united and the result was the accepted Buff Rocks. Dr. Aldrich and Mr. Buffington exhibited their productions at Providence, R. I., in December, 1890. Dr. Aldrich called his Golden Buffs. Mr. Wilson exhibited his as

Buff Rocks at the World's Fair, 1893. They were exhibited by other persons in 1892 in the eastern shows.

### BREED CHARACTERISTICS

Standard weights of all Plymouth Rocks: Cock, 9½ pounds; cockerel, 8 pounds; hen, 7½ pounds; pullet, 6½ pounds.

Disqualifications: Positive white in ear lobes; red in any part of the plumage; two or more solid black primaries, secondaries or main tail feathers; shanks other than yellow; with due allowance for fading with age, dark spots not to disqualify.

In shape the Standard requirements are the same for all varieties of Plymouth Rocks. Plymouth Rock shape is distinctive. The Rock is built on straight lines. The Wyandotte is a bird of curves. The Rock body should be long, broad, deep and full; back rather long, rising with slight concave sweep to tail; breast broad, well rounded; comb, single, upright, with five points.

Color of the Barred Rock should be modified black and white in all sections, the bars narrow, regular, and running parallel across the feathers, the overlapping of the feathers producing a blue tinge. The color should be the same in all sections, each feather being barred its entire length—to the skin.

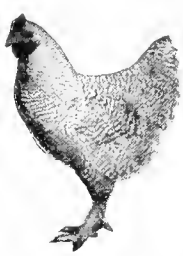
The White Rock must be pure chalk white in every section.

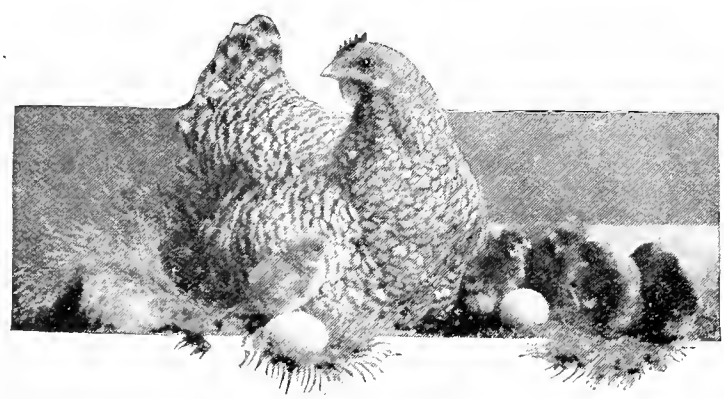
The Buff variety must carry a plumage of rich golden buff of even shade throughout, free from shafting or mealy appearance. The head, neck, hackle, back, wing-bows and saddle richly glossed with a metallic luster. The undercolor a lighter shade. This for the male and female.

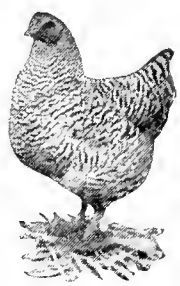
The Partridge Rock must carry the penciling of the Partridge Cochin.

The Silver Penciled variety has the markings of the Dark Brahma.

The Partridge and the Silver Penciled varieties were very kindly received last season in the show rooms of the country. That they will be pushed and become popular seems certain. They are very beautiful creations. While they possess intrinsic value their place will be that of fanciers' fowls.







# THE WYANDOTTE FAMILY

**The Silver Wyandotte, the Product of the Efforts of Many Men Working Along the Same Lines in Different Parts of the Country—The Original Intent was to give to the Fancy a Sebright Cochin Bantam and too Small for a Sebright Cochin—For Years the Warring Factions Could not Agree upon a Standard, Some Wanting Single Comb Others Demanding Rose Comb.**

To write even briefly of the history and origin of the Silver Wyandotte fowl is to court trouble. So much has been written that is false or only partly true; so much truth has been told and this truth ridiculed and denounced; so much of the productive efforts of hardworking, ambitious fanciers has been rejected and honorable names tarnished. Above and beyond this there has been, is now and always will be, evidently, an honest difference of opinion as to the true facts regarding the origin of the Silver Wyandotte.

Prior to their admission to the Standard in 1883 there were no recognized Wyandottes. An attempt was made to secure for them official recognition in 1877.

The first mention in public print made of these new fowls appeared in *Poultry World*, March, 1876. Mr. D. W. Hooker, writing on "New Varieties," had this to say of American Sebrights, or Sebright Cochins:

"Where and how this variety originated I am unable to state after diligent inquiry. It has marks of both the Brahma and the Hamburg. The head is crowned with a good, double comb; wattles and earlobes both red and of medium size; hackle black, striped with white; back broad, with black Brahma-like tail; breast white, deep and broad, and back and breast feathers deeply laced; wings, primary feathers mostly white, and lower wing coverts tipped with black, making a distinct bar; legs short and slightly feathered; coloring throughout clear black and white, with a tendency to gray on the hackle and saddle; weight about eight pounds for the cock and six pounds for the hen. Their valued points are that they are good layers the year round; they are not troublesome to break up from sitting; they are fine for the table, dressing a rich yellow; and, while being good foragers, they are not disposed to fly.

"Though possessing the characteristics of a pure breed, so marked as to be distinguished the moment the eye rests upon them, they have not yet bred true enough to feather to knock at the door of the Standard. There is yet much variety in the lacing; in some the comb shows yet the 'pea,' and in others the Hamburg point. Some are also clean-legged. But with careful breeding they have a prospect of becoming one of the most valued of our domestic fowls. I trust their breeders will not knock (apply for admission to the Standard-Editor) until their points become so established that the fraternity shall bid them a cordial 'come in'."

Mr. L. M. Kidder contributed the following to the same journal, November, 1877, in writing of this fowl:

"In size they are much like Plymouth Rocks; in form they are like no other fowl; bodies are very deep and wide, carrying a large amount of the very best quality of flesh. In color, as the name seems to indicate, the breast of the cock and the entire body of the hen much resembles the beautiful white and black of the Silver Laced Sebright Bantams, except that the lacing is broader. Hens' necks are striped like Brahmas', and they have a glossy, green-black tail, a little larger than a Brahmas'. The hen has a very low, flat rose comb. Her weight at maturity is six to eight pounds. The color of the cock, except the breast, is much like that of the Dark Brahma, but the form is more like the Dorking. Weight, eight to eleven pounds. Both have, or should have, clean, bright yellow legs, free from feathering. They are very quiet, sociable birds, excellent layers, sitters and mothers, without that inveterate sitting propensity of all Asiatics. The chicks feather early, grow plump at six weeks, and are prime for the table after eight weeks old. They are very hardy and healthy, and for general food qualities I have never raised their equal."

Francis Soule showed some of these birds as American Sebrights at the Boston Exhibition in 1878. Writing to the *Poultry World* in September, 1879, he said:

"At the last exhibit of the Massachusetts Poultry Association, held in Boston, I called the attention of two of the committee to my fowls and asked what prospect there was of them being admitted to the Standard. They said they were fine birds and the breeders of this variety should agree upon the Standard. But as long as some want single combs and some rose combs, some feathered legs and some smooth legs, they cannot agree to admit them."

It is a matter of record that at that time Mr. Soule endeavored to have the breeders agree upon the rose comb. Here, then, was plainly the Silver Wyandotte in crude form.

Mr. I. K. Felch, who attended the 1877 meeting of the American Poultry Association, at which time the newcomers were refused admission to the Standard, wrote as follows:

"It was without doubt the intention with the first cross to produce an improved Cochin Bantam, the cross being a Sebright Bantam and a Cochin hen. When the size proved too large they offered and illustrated as Sebright Cochins. This suggested the cross of Silver Spangled Hamburgs and Buff Cochins. These two crosses, mingled with another cross through a half-breed and a Cochin hen, became the blood mixture of the early birds offered to the American Poultry Association as American Sebrights. Their friends could not agree as to the comb being single or double, as it was then expressed, and, the name being so suggestive of an American Bantam, the request was refused and the matter referred back to the committee."

Mr. J. Y. Bicknell, in the AMERICAN POULTRY JOURNAL, January, 1886, said:

"Birds similar to the Wyandottes were bred in Oneida County, New York, as early as 1866. Mr. Payne made an attempt to have the American Poultry Association recognize them in 1877, but failed simply because the specimens offered were pronounced unworthy of recognition."

Mr. L. Whittaker in 1904 wrote to Mr. T. E. Orr concerning this meeting *The Poultry Book*:

"My birds were not represented there. Mr. Payne after-

wards wrote me, admitting that it was a motley lot of birds, no two breeders agreeing on name, comb, etc."

Mr. I. K. Felch, in *The Poultry Book*, page 655, further says:

"There is no disputing the fact that at that time Ray, Baker and Rev. Benson were breeding them as Sebright Cochins; that the first cross was a large Sebright Bantam cock with a Buff Cochin hen; that this was subsequently crossed by Hamburgs; that Kidder did introduce Dark Brahma blood and then the Silver Spangled Hamburg male. All this came out at the Buffalo meeting in 1877. I have Ray's letters, dated 1871, with an endorsement on the back in 1886 by A. S. Baker, that show that the first cross was as early as 1864 to 1866. Ray was one of the two or three breeding these birds in 1867, but the fact that he was hunting for crosses to breed to his shows that there were others at it, too. Between 1877 and 1883 there was another top-cross and the blood of the French Breds and the Hamburg was added—also light-colored specimens of the Dark Brahma. Ray, Baker and Benson were the starters, but these other crosses were added before they went into the Standard in 1883."

It will thus be seen that prior to 1877 several persons in different parts of the country were engaged in an effort to produce the best American Sebrights; that production of these fowls were made about the same time by several persons; that in color the desire of all was to produce the well-defined lacing of the present Silver Wyandotte; that these birds are the foundation upon which the Silver Wyandotte has been builded; that upon the suggestion of the American Poultry Association in 1877 the breeders of the American Sebright and Sebright Cochins got together and agreed upon what they deemed should be the Standard requirements of their creation.

To Mr. L. Whittaker, of Michigan, is due the credit of picking up the fragments of these early crosses, developing them into something tangible and of giving to the world the best in the foundation upon which the Standard Silver Wyandotte of today rests. In a letter to Mr. T. E. Orr (*The Poultry Book*) Mr. Whittaker wrote:

"I do claim the honor of bringing order out of chaos, of shaping up the breed to what it finally became—a large, round-bodied bird with Sebright lacing, rose combs and clean, yellow shanks; of so illustrating it in 1874 and of naming it the American Sebright in 1877; that the same bird was admitted to the Standard in 1883 as the Wyandotte on practically the same Standard description as I had used for years but which was written by Mr. Felch in 1881, he at that time preferring the name Hambletonian."

Mr. Whittaker's position is safe in history and time will not take from him the honor which is his by right of effort and practical results obtained.

Mr. F. A. Houlette, of New York, suggested the name Wyandotte, which was accepted by the warring factions as a compromise.

The original Wyandotte became known as the Silver Laced Wyandotte upon the admission to the Standard of the Golden Wyandottes. We have always held that it was a mistake to admit any other fowl to the Standard as Wyandottes.

## WYANDOTTE CHARACTERISTICS

The Standard calls for the following weights in all varieties of the Wyandottes: Cock, eight and one-half pounds; hen, six and one-half pounds; cockerel, seven and one-half pounds; pullet, five and one-half pounds.

The Wyandotte is a bird of curves. No straight lines in the form of a Wyandotte can be tolerated. A long back, such as we find in a Plymouth Rock, would rob a Wyandotte of grace and beauty of form. There must be no breaks and no angles. The body must be rounded out and full in every section. The typical Wyandotte is set low on legs, and stilty appearance being foreign to a good specimen. The breast is carried low, giving the fowl the appearance of tipping forward slightly. The Wyandotte rose comb is distinct and must not be on the lines of other rose combs, such as that of the Hamburg or Rose Comb Leghorns. The Wyandotte comb must be free of any coarseness and should follow the curvature of the head.

In color the Silver Wyandotte is one of the most beautiful of all feathered creatures. The male must, above all else, be silvery in color, free from any brass or smut. The wing bar is one of the crowning beauties of the male. This is formed by the wing coverts, the lower half of each feather being white with a black edging. There should be two of these bars, well defined. The hackle is silvery white with a distinct black stripe through the middle of each feather, terminating before it reaches the end of the feather. Breast and thighs solid glossy black. There must be no tinge of white or gray in these sections. Tail black.

Color of the female: Head plumage, silvery gray; neck, silvery gray, with a black stripe through each feather, tapering to a point near the extremity of each feather; back, web of feathers black, with large oval-shaped white centers, which must be free from black or bronze. Feathers in the body and fluff should be black in the web, with oval-shaped white centers. Wings, primaries, black, with the lower edge white; secondaries, black, the lower edge of the outer web being white, with narrow black edging. Tail, greater coverts black; lesser coverts black with white center. Comb, wattles and earlobes, a bright red. Eyes, bright red or bay. Beak, dark horn, shading to yellow at point. Face, bright red.

## THE GOLDEN WYANDOTTE

The younger generation of fanciers have not seen such a condition of excitement as reigned during the days closely following the admission of the Wyandotte to the Standard. It is not at all strange that the Wyandotte family rapidly increased in numbers. As Mr. Stoddard put it in his *Poultry World* at that time, "The country is (was) Wyandotte crazy."

The Golden Wyandottes were the second variety of the breed offered the fanciers. The honor of their origin belongs to Mr. Joseph McKeen, of Wisconsin. He produced a fowl the product of a cross of Rose Comb Brown Leghorns, Pea Comb Partridge Cochins and buff-colored females; these crossed with Golden Sebrights and Buff Cochins. These Goldens were, of course, very crude in color markings compared with the beautiful Golden Wyandotte of today, and it took years of thoughtful, skillful breeding to produce the beautiful and brilliant colors now so well blended in the Standard Golden Wyandotte.

The Standard requires of the Golden Wyandotte the same color distinctions as it does of the Silver Wyandotte, except that "golden bay" be substituted for "white."

## WHITE WYANDOTTES

The White Wyandottes, now the most popular of all the Wyandotte family and the leaders in point of numbers in nearly all showrooms, especially in the larger and more important exhibitions, was admitted to the Standard in 1888. It has been held that they were in existence prior to 1870,

but the claim cannot be substantiated. It is a fact that the early Silver Wyandottes did produce both black and white sports (as they do today), but it was long after 1870 that the Silvers were anywhere nearly established in color markings. So it is that these very early white sports cannot be considered as having been White Wyandottes. Certainly it is that at that time they were not deemed worthy the attention of the fanciers. It was somewhere between 1880 and 1883 that the white sports were given attention. To Mr. B. M. Briggs and G. W. Toule belongs the credit of bringing them before the public in good form.

For a time the White Wyandottes enjoyed a great boom. Then came the decline of the Silvers by reason of unscrupulous breeders sending out stock possessing but little worth. The Whites suffered with the Silvers, and for a time the demand for them was not large. Now all is changed. Worth won out, as it usually does in this world, and the once neglected Whites are the leaders of today.

In plumage color the White Wyandotte must be chalk white throughout. Red, buff or black in any part of the plumage is a disqualification. Gray in plumage does not disqualify, but a specimen showing any of it must be severely punished by the judge.

### BUFF WYANDOTTES

No individual fancier can justly claim the honor of having given the beautiful and useful Buff Wyandotte to the world. Between the years 1886 and 1893 various fanciers throughout the country were striving for the production of a fowl buff in color having Wyandotte shape and characteristics. Here are some of the crosses employed in the production of the Buff Wyandotte:

Silver Wyandotte-Rhode Island Red. This was the R. G. Buffington foundation.

Golden Wyandottes with Buff Cochins.

Cross of White and Golden Wyandottes bred to Buff Cochins.

Golden and White Wyandotte crosses bred to Golden Wyandottes.

Buff Cochins bred to Golden Spangled Hamburgs.

After years of intelligent and systematic breeding the Buff Wyandotte of today was produced.

Buff Wyandotte color: Surface color an even shade of rich golden buff, free from shafting or mealy appearance. Black or white so commonly found in wings and tails is considered a very serious defect.

### PARTRIDGE WYANDOTTES

There has been more or less dispute as to the origin of the Partridge Wyandotte. It can be stated as a fact that there were two original strains.

The Cornell-Brackenbury strain was established in the East in 1889, or about that time. The first mating was a Partridge hen to a Golden Wyandotte male. A pullet from this mating was bred to a Golden Wyandotte cock. A pullet from this mating was bred to a Golden Penciled Hamburg male. The line was followed, Partridge Cochin blood again being introduced a few years later; also Golden Wyandotte blood.

Joseph McKeen, originator of the Golden Wyandotte, had been for several years prior to his death in 1896 working to produce a Partridge Wyandotte.

Mr. W. A. Doolittle, upon the death of Mr. McKeen, took this stock and with Mr. Theim, of Iowa, carried on its breeding along lines laid down by Mr. McKeen. The first cross in the production of the McKeen strain was made in 1884, being that of a Golden Wyandotte male and a Partridge Cochin hen. It is claimed by Mr. Doolittle and Mr. Theim that no other blood has ever entered their strain. The Partridge Wyandotte was admitted to the Standard at the Chicago meeting of the American Poultry Association in 1891.

The color of the Partridge Wyandotte is practically that required of the Partridge Cochin. (See Paper No. 2.)

### SILVER PENCILED WYANDOTTES

The Silver Penciled Wyandotte is a creation of the brain of the late Ezra Cornell. Mr. Cornell conceived the idea of producing this beautiful fowl. In connection with George H. Brackenbury the work was pursued. The first mating was a Dark Brahma hen to a Partridge Wyandotte male. Dark Brahma-Silver Penciled Hamburg matings were also made. It was a difficult problem, but men of brains and fanciers' skill were in charge, and after several years' hard work the variety was well established. The work was commenced about 1894. Mr. E. G. Wyckoff early became connected with the work.

Color of the Silver Penciled Wyandotte: Male—Head and neck, silver white. Neck feather must have distinct black stripe extending through it, tapering to a point near the extremity of the feather. No white shafting or black edge allowed here. Back, silvery white, free from all other color. It is required that the breast be solid black; slight frosting with white allowable but not desired. Tail, black. In wings the primaries black with the lower edge white, with the ends of the feathers greenish-black. The female Silver Penciled Wyandotte is in color gray, with distinct dark penciling, resembling the Dark Brahma.

### BLACK WYANDOTTES

The Black Wyandotte originated with Mr. F. M. Clements, of Ohio, in 1885. Mr. Clements claimed they were sports from the Silver Wyandottes. Mr. F. J. Marshall, of Georgia, also had black sports from his Silver Wyandottes about the same time.

Color of the Black Wyandotte: Rich glossy black throughout. Must be free from purple barring.

### COLUMBIAN WYANDOTTES

More than twenty years ago a New Hampshire fancier introduced to the fancy a fowl which he called "Clean-leg Brahmas." They were in appearance a Light Brahma, minus the toe and leg feathering. The fanciers would have none of them and soon the fowl which the introducer thought would be so well received was forgotten. Just how they were produced is not positively known, but their origin is not at all doubtful. They were, beyond question, the result of a cross of Light Brahma and some white fowl.

History as we write it today shows that this New Hampshire fancier was about a quarter of a century ahead of the times. When General Fremont advocated the freeing of the slaves in the South the people condemned him. When Lincoln issued the emancipation proclamation the whole world called it good. When the New Hampshire fancier gave out the "Clean-leg Brahmas" the Light Brahma was the most popular fowl in America. A Light Brahma without leg and toe feathering was a hideous thing, so people said. When about eight years ago the same fowl was given to the fancy under the name of Wyandotte it met with popular favor. His progress has been wonderful and today the Columbian Wyandotte is one of the most popular of breeds. It is a

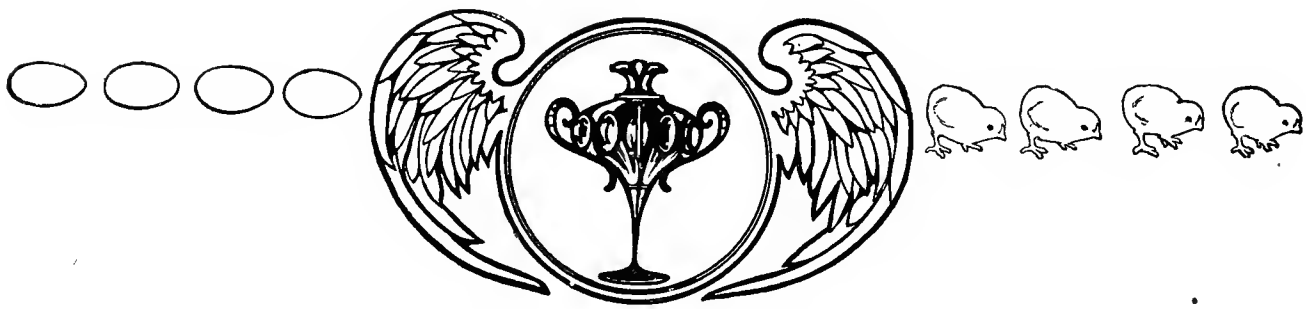
cross of Light Brahma and White Wyandotte. Several American fanciers have been unwilling to slowly acquire the black in wing, tail and neck by the usual manner of progression, and have mated a Light Brahma female to a Silver Penciled Wyandotte male. The females of this union have been mated to a Columbian male.

In the fall of 1904 we had occasion to go out to a farm in Hardin County, Iowa, where we had a flock of Silver Wyandottes farmed out. The wife of this farmer possessed a flock of Buff Cochins. She allowed a Silver Wyandotte cock to mate with a number of her Buff Cochin females. Many of the products of this mating were typical Columbian Wyandottes so far as color markings are concerned. In shape they were not good Wyandottes and some had feathered legs. But from this flock of Silver Wyandotte-Buff Cochin cross we could have picked several birds which in color marking were the equal of the best Columbian Wyandottes we have ever examined in the showroom, and we have seen the best of those exhibited so far.

The Columbian Wyandotte is a fowl the size and shape of the Wyandotte, with same kind of comb and carrying the plumage color of the Light Brahma. It is a handsome fowl.

In commercial worth the Wyandotte is unapproached by any other breed or variety. We think the tribute paid the Wyandotte by a farmer at an Institute before which we were lecturing a few years ago tells the whole story. Our farmer friend said: "The Wyandotte is the right size—not too large, not too small. They are prolific layers, giving us eggs the year round and in abundance the winter months. We do not have to build expensive houses in which to shelter them. Their low rose combs do not suffer even in the coldest weather. This means winter eggs. They are hardy. The chicks grow rapidly and are ready for the market at eight weeks of age. The Wyandotte is always ready for the market when properly cared for, being always a round, plump chunk of the choicest chicken meat obtainable."

This tribute, while not being elegant, is, we think, eloquent. Certainly it is truthful. The Wyandotte meets completely all the requirements of a profitable fowl.



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FIRST PANEL—Reading from left to right. Black Minorcas, White Minorcas, White Faced Black Spanish. SECOND PANEL—Anconas, Blue Andalusians, Buff Orpingtons, Red Caps. THIRD PANEL—White Dorkings, Silver Gray Dorkings, Colored Dorkings. FOURTH PANEL—White Crested Black Polish, Bearded Silver Polish, Bearded Golden Polish.

# THE LEGHORN FAMILY

**The Common Fowls of Italy the Basis of the Structure Upon which the White and Brown Leghorns were Builded—Brought to this Country About 1835 by Vesselmen Trading in Mediterranean Ports—The Original Fowls were of all Colors Other than Black—Buff, Pile nnd Duckwing Leghorns English Creations—The Making of the Rose Comb Leghorns in America.**

The Leghorn fowl, the most popular and the most extensively bred of all the non-sitting breeds of domestic poultry, is Italian in its origin. While this is true, strictly speaking, the Leghorn is and has been for more than half a century distinctively American. The modern Leghorn, white and brown, both single and rose comb, is the product of the American fancier. It was from America, not Italy, that the Leghorn was first sent to the breeders of England and other countries. In fact no one sends to Italy for Leghorns, for the good and sufficient reason that the common fowl of Italy, from which the modern Leghorn was evolved, is in no way, other than in shape, anything like the Leghorn recognized by the world's fanciers.

The American Leghorn has found its way into every civilized country on the globe. As egg producers these fowls stand, by test, the best of all, when properly housed and otherwise cared for. The large and profitable egg farms of this country and England are stocked with Leghorns. Upon the farms of America these fowls are paying handsome dividends, where market eggs are sought.

There are several varieties of the Leghorn, as follows: Single Comb White, Rose Comb White, Single Comb Brown, Rose Comb Brown, Single Comb Buff, Rose Comb Buff, Single Comb Black, Pile, Duckwing and Dominique.

The Single Comb White and Brown varieties are bred in greater numbers than all others combined.

## EARLY HISTORY

The original Leghorns were undoubtedly brought to this country by vesselmen trading in Mediterranean ports, but whether the first consignment was directly from Leghorn is a question which will never be positively settled. It has been said that the first lot of these fowls received in America were brought in in 1834. It is not at all strange that these fowls made their way to this country in that early day. Vesselmen leaving Italian ports would, most naturally, take on board a number of fowls to be used for table purposes on the trip about to be made. These vesselmen had, at first, no idea of dealing in breeding fowls. But American fanciers, then as now, on the alert for something new and novel, were eager for these foreign fowls, and soon these vesselmen were doing a large, and it is safe to say, a very profitable business in supplying the wants of the Americans.

The first reference we have in American literature to the Leghorn is found in *Saunder's Domestic Poultry,* published in 1866. This reference is as follows:

Within a few years past fowls known as Leghorns have attained considerable notoriety. So far as I am aware they are entirely unknown among the fanciers of Great Britain, and for my own part I have been led to avoid breeding them, from the impression, be it well or ill-founded, that the characteristics were not sufficiently well established to enable to breed them true to feather and points, and to entitle them to the distinction of a breed. However, since the publication of the first edition of this little book I am convinced that fowls which have gained so fast in public favor must have something to recommend them, and may at least be commended as worthy the attention of breeders. Their uniform characteristics as I at present view them are these:

"Medium size, persistent as layers, being poor sitters or non-sitters, having fair fattening qualities and very good flesh. They are besides hardy, suffering from severe weather much less than the Spanish. With this breed they are evidently closely allied, all having single combs, large white ear-lobes, and in many cases partly white faces, and in the best specimens something of the style of that justly favorite breed. These birds are all colors except black, the light colors prevailing, and they have none of the marks of a pure breed."

Here we have a good description of the common fowls of Italy, brought here by vesselmen, not as breeding stock, but as market stock.

Mr. Saunder's statement, "Within a few years past fowls known as Leghorns have obtained considerable notoriety," is conclusive evidence that fanciers here had been handling these fowls for several years prior to 1866. His further statement, "I am convinced that fowls which have gained so fast in public favor must have something to recommend them," shows clearly that it was not many years prior to 1866 that the first consignment of these fowls was received by American fanciers.

Mr. H. H. Stoddard many years ago made the following statement regarding the origin of the Single Comb Brown Leghorn:

"About 1835 (the exact date is not known) N. P. Ward of New York City received direct from Italy a few Brown Leghorn fowls, which, in his hands, undoubtedly proved their claims to superior merit, for, though he wrote nothing about them which has been preserved, he gave eggs and fowls to his friends, one of whom was J. C. Thompson, of Staten Island. Mr. Thompson was greatly interested in the breed, and gave an account of their marvelous precocity and early fecundity. The pullets matured and commenced to lay at the age of four months, and, though we have no statistics of the male side of the house, there is little doubt that the cockerels showed as early development as the pullets."

"At a subsequent period Mr. Thompson, who seems to have been a most enthusiastic fancier, sent by his son-in-law, who was a sea captain, for an additional supply of the fowls, and received birds that had the same markings as those first imported. In a letter published after breeding them several years, and when the fresh blood of various importations forbade the idea of deterioration through too close inbreeding, this pioneer breeder expresses the opinion that pullets frequently laid themselves to death."

"For some time after this, however, there was little known of the fowls, and when, in 1852, they made their entry into Mystic River, Conn., no one breeder in a hundred knew what they were, or what were their peculiar merits. They speedily learned the latter, however. The second year another lot of birds arrived at Mystic and were distributed among the friends

of Captain Gates and the first officer of the vessel, Mr. Morgan, who still lives in the town of Groton, and corroborates the details of the importation. From this time the dissemination of the breed was very rapid, and its popularity advanced rapidly through all New England, where it was known as the red Leghorn."

In view of this statement by Mr. Stoddard it is evident that we here have some very important facts, and taken into consideration with the evidence given by Mr. Saunders the deduction is: White and Brown Leghorns (fowls resembling the modern Leghorn in form and comb only, bear in mind) were first brought to this country about 1835; that for a time they were eagerly sought by American fanciers; that as we would now express the situation, "the boom dropped," and for a time there was little doing with these fowls; that it was not until about 1853 that great interest was renewed and these fowls demanded by fanciers of this country.

England received her Leghorns from America. Tegetmeier, the English author, in his *Poultry Book*, 1873, referring to the White Leghorn, said:

"To our American cousins is due the credit of having introduced certain admirable breeds of poultry. The Brahmas are undoubtedly second to none as useful fowls. Another race, which is as equally popular in the United States as being at once most useful and ornamental, is that known as the White Leghorn. These fowls are hardly, if at all, known in this country; but, having tested their merits for two seasons, I can report most favorably on them, and fully endorse all that has been said in their favor on the other side of the Atlantic."

"White Leghorn are birds of the Spanish type, but with white in the place of black plumage. I find them to be abundant layers of full-sized eggs, laying the whole year around except through moult. I regard these fowls as exceeding useful and ornamental. They have materially lessened the value of the Spanish fowls. *The Brown Leghorn has not as yet been brought into England.*"

As Mr. Saunders said, the common fowls of Italy brought to these shores by the vesselmen were birds white and brown, "in fact all colors but black." *Poultry World* in 1876 in an article regarding the origin of the Black Leghorn, said:

"The first importation of this breed from Italy, regularly bred from, of which we have any authentic account, was made in 1871 by Mr. Reed Watson, although stray specimens of black or very dark fowls were no doubt brought over at various earlier times. The first published account of Black Leghorns appeared in this magazine as an editorial in 1872. Since then they have become widely known. We quote: 'Mr. Reed Watson, of East Windsor Hill, Conn., has some Black Leghorn fowls direct from the vessel in which they were imported from Italy. Mr. Watson's birds show the unmistakable Leghorn form, even to the details of comb and wattles, and are as thoroughly non-sitters as any of our acclimated strains of other Leghorns. The original fowls, three in number, imported a year ago, are now surrounded by a well-grown and numerous family. The old hens have proven themselves remarkably prolific layers, and the pullets of last April are following the example. A brood of a dozen chicks can be seen hatched September 1, from eggs laid by pullets of this stock, hatched after the middle of April last."

Black Leghorns were admitted to the Standard by the American Poultry Association in 1874.

This is the early history of the Leghorn fowl. What a change has been wrought by the skilful, untiring and patient American fancier! To-day, beautiful of form and color, they grace the yards of fanciers in every land and clime.

Regarding the production of the modern Brown Leghorn Mr. I. K. Felch says:

"The modern acquisition of white ear-lobes, long legs and not more than five points in the comb, the dark brown color and greater weight, has been the result of the following crosses known to the writer: Spanish sires bred upon black-red game hens, and the progeny to Brown Leghorn cocks, and this progeny inbred to sire. Again, black-red game sire upon Spanish dams, and the progeny bred to Brown Leghorn cock, and inbred as before Black Spanish hens bred to Brown Leghorn cock, and the progeny inbred."

So far as known no crosses were employed in the production of the modern White Leghorn, single comb. An attempt was made by a number of fanciers about 1875 to secure a larger White Leghorn by introducing the blood of the White Game, but this stock was soon abandoned, and no trace of it remains. Some have introduced White Minorca blood in an effort to get a larger Leghorn, but this to but little extent.

### ROSE COMB LEGHORNS

Thorne, in *Complete Poultry Book*, 1886, says:

"Certain American breeders are attempting to substitute the rose comb for the ordinary comb of the Leghorn fowl, claiming this type of comb to be preferable on account of superior beauty and non-liability to freeze."

It is a matter of record that the Rose Comb White Leghorn was produced by crossing a Single Comb White Leghorn on White Hamburg. They have had a steady growth, and during the past five years have been in great demand.

Various breeders, in the east and middle west, sought to produce a rose comb Brown Leghorn, and several blood lines were resorted to, breeding back to the Single Comb Brown Leghorn in each case.

In 1888 the writer secured from one of the most prominent pit game breeders and cockers in the United States a pit game hen with the color of the Brown Leghorn. This hen had a rose comb. We bred her and secured some very fine Rose Comb Brown Leghorn chicks, using a male Single Comb Brown Leghorn as sire.

Hamburg blood was also used in the production of the Rose Comb Brown Leghorn.

At present an effort is being made to produce a Rose Comb Buff Leghorn. As yet good specimens are very rare.

### SINGLE COMB BUFF LEGHORNS

The honor of giving this beautiful Leghorn to the fancy belongs to Mr. and Mrs. Lister Kay, of England. A yellow male bird, with Leghorn form, was shown in Copenhagen in 1885. Mr. Alexander Comyns, then editor of the *Feathered World*, London, was a visitor at the show and greatly admired this yellow bird. Through his effort interest was aroused in England, and the Buff Leghorn idea took root. In 1888 a Buff pullet was shown in London. Then Mr. and Mrs. Kay went to work to produce a good Buff Leghorn. They secured crude specimens, yellow birds, from Denmark and elsewhere, and after years of hard work gave to the world the beautiful and useful Buff Leghorn. In August, 1892, Mr. August D. Arnold, of Dillsburg, Pa., bought of the Kays the first prize Crystal Palace cockerel "Jasper," and the first prize pullet "Jessica," paying $325 for the pair. These were the first Buff Leghorns brought to America.

### OTHER LEGHORNS

The Duckwing Leghorn is a beautiful creation. They were produced in England, and by several different matings and various crosses. A Pyle Leghorn—Japanese Game cross—is the one which has been accepted as the strongest source of

supply. They are now seen at the leading American shows. Mr. E. G. Wyckoff, of New York, has been giving them much publicity of late. He claims they are wonderful egg producers. They average somewhat larger than other Leghorns.

At present the Black Leghorns are having a big boom in England and are rapidly getting a footing in the United States. They are a most beautiful fowl. They have all the grace of the other Leghorns. They are Leghorn through and through. Their beautiful black plumage is very attractive. They were "made in England," and it is said are a cross of Brown Leghorn and Minorca. They are sure to be very popular.

The Pile Leghorn is a cross of the White and Brown Leghorn, and was introduced by Mr. G. Payne, of England, who introduced the Duckwings.

Color of the Duckwing Leghorns is practically that of the Duckwing Games.

The Dominique Leghorn was admitted to the American Standard in 1874, and a few years later thrown out. It is not bred here, but few specimens being found. It is bred to some extent in England as Cuckoo Leghorns. In plumage color it resembles the Barred Rocks.

### LEGHORN FORM

Leghorn form and carriage is distinctive. The Leghorn is comparatively small of size, a fowl of great alertness and graceful curves. Short backs, short shanks and low set bodies do not become a Leghorn. In form and carriage all the Leghorns have same requirements. There is no Standard weight clause for fowls of this breed. A few years ago fanciers in their desire to secure color markings lost sight of size, and as a result the winning Leghorns were not much larger than Bantams. To restore size the American Poultry Association demanded, and made it a Standard requirement, that judges in passing upon Leghorns in the show room give consideration to size. Now in the scale of points for all Leghorns "size" counts for 8 points.

### COLOR REQUIREMENTS

The White Leghorn, Single and Rose Comb, male and female, pure white throughout, including quills. As in all varieties of the breed the beak, yellow; eyes, red; face, bright red; earlobes, white; wattles, red; shanks and toes, yellow.

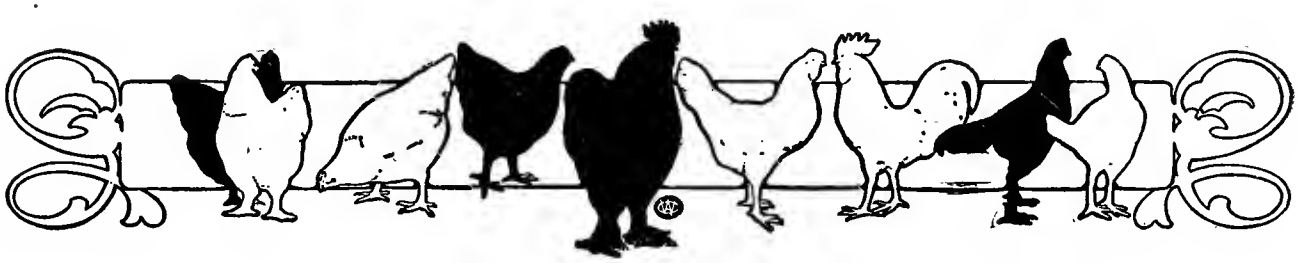
Color of Brown Leghorn, male: Head, reddish-bay; neck, rich red, with distinct stripe extending down middle of each feather and tapering to point near the extremity of feather, the red to be free from black; back and saddle, rich red, striped with black; breast, black; body and fluff, black; wings, bows, bright red; wing fronts, black; edge of lower web a rich brown wide enough to secure a wing-bay of same color, coverts, greenish-black, forming a bar of this color across wing when folded; tail, black; sickles, greenish-black; under-color, black or dark slate.

The female Brown Leghorn is a beautiful brown, the body feathers finely stippled with a darker shade, the lighter shade predominating.

Buff Leghorn color: Surface throughout an even shade of rich, golden buff, free from shafting or mealy appearance. Under-color a lighter shade, free from foreign color.

Black Leghorn color: Rich, glossy black, with greenish sheen throughout.

The Leghorn occupies a prominent place as a fancier's fowl. Its place in the show room, on exclusively egg farms, on the farms of the country and in the yards of the cottagers is assured. It is a hardy and vigorous fowl, both beautiful and useful, and will, therefore, always be demanded by the people.



# THE ENGLISH BREEDS

**The Dorking Fowl, Rich in History and Tradition, Spoken of by Roman Writers Long Before the Sun of Civilation Cast its Light Upon America—Evidence Tending to Show that the Breed was taken to England by the Romans—How the Dorking was Temporarily set Aside by English Breeders During the Shanghai Craze—Orpingtons, How the Various Varieties were Produced.**

The Dorking fowl, rich in history and tradition, the support of the peasantry in the provinces of Kent, Sussex and Surry, England, long years before the sun of civilization first cast its rays upon America, still the pride and boast of every Briton, occupy a unique position in the poultry kingdom.

This fowl, known to scientists as *gallus pentadactylus*, or five-toed fowl, was described by Pliny, Roman author, A. D. 61; Columella, Roman writer, A. D. 40, and Aldrovandus. It is not at all unlikely that the couple of short-legged hens which Justic Shallow, of Gloucestershire, ordered for the entertainment of Sir John Falstaff, may have been at least closely related to the Dorking.

Ethnological research as to the remote origin of the Dorking has failed in fixing the precise period of their appearance in England. Cæsar in his official papers, written while yet an iuvader of English soil, made mention of the fact that the people of England at that time kept fowls, but only for amusement, as the flesh of fowls as food was prohibited by the Druidical laws. The British at that time were semi-barbaric, and cock fighting was the favorite sport of the people. It is, therefore, very evident that the fowls referred to by Cæsar were not Dorkings, for the Dorking most certainly has not come down through the ages from game ancestors capable of satisfying the cock fighters of the days of Cæsar, or of the Roman gladiators of that time. It seems to be a fact that the fowls found by Cæsar were the offspring of specimens brought to England by the Romans.

Columella in his writings more than two thousand years ago referred to a breed of fowls common in Rome. His description fits the Colored Dorking. He said: "Let them be reddish or dark plumage, with dark wings; let the hens be robust body, square built and full breasted, with upright and bright red combs, and with five toes." Note that all these points are typical of the Dorking. Bear in mind that this was written by Columella more than two thousand years ago. Pliny, A. D. 61, also spoke of a like fowl.

Columella, speaking of the white fowl of this race, said: "Let the white ones be avoided, for they are generally both tender and less vivacious, and also not found to be prolific."

Here we have conclusive evidence that a race of fowls closely resembling the Dorking, if not identical with the Dorking, was bred and prized in Rome before the advent of the Romans occupying England. When the Druidical laws become no longer effective we find fowls being bred and offered for sale as food in Kent, Sussex and Surry—five-toed fowls, such as Columella described as being common in Rome. This would seem to clearly indicate that the ancestors of these fowls were taken to England by the Romans. This, we think, is the natural conclusion. The name Dorking originated from a town of that name in Sussex. Camden in his *Brittania*, 1610, did not mention the place, and in his map it is shown as a mere village. John Timbs, writing in 1824, said that "fowls were brought long distances to Dorking to be sold. They have five toes." Dorking, while not an important commereial center, was the leading poultry market during those early days, and became celebrated as a fattening station about the middle of the eighteenth century. The great causaway called Stoney street passes through Dorking churchyard. Dorking was destroyed by the Danes and rebuilt by Canute or the Normans.

Writing to an English paper in 1854 M. Furgason stated: "That a breed bearing much resemblance to our Dorkings, both for external appearance and internal qualities, have long been propagated in the town of Dorking (received in the town of Dorking.—T. F. R.) is conclusive. I have before me a list of fowls remitted to market by a farmer living there from June to August, A. D. 1683, as follows:

17 dozen five claws—dead stock.
1 dozen four claws—dead stock.
1 dozen five claws—live stock."

We could quote history at length showing that the Dorking was found by latter day civilization as a distinct breed in England. Whether it was brought to England by the Romans, or whether it was upon its native heath when found in Kent, Sussex and Surry, will ever remain an open question, in all likelihood. But we feel that the statement of Columella, that this fowl was the common fowl of Rome at the time he wrote, long years before it was known to exist in England, affords sufficient evidence to establish the fact that the Dorking was taken to England by the Romans.

Which is the original Dorking, the White or the Colored? This question has been discussed for ages, and is still a burning question with the breeders of these fowls. Martin Doyle in *Domestic Poultry*, London, 1854, said:

"Both the White and Colored Dorkings urge their claim to priority of ancestry in England. Some of the enthusiastic admirers of the White Dorking say that they are a more ancient race than the Colored, and that the Colored are a variety derived from them; whereas the supporters of the Colored Dorking maintain that the White, which are of lesser size, and therefore of an assumed degeneracy, are a deteriorated offspring of the others. If we may venture to offer a conjecture on this abstract point of physiology, we should say that, as in vegetable propagation, white flowers are often found to break or degenerate into colors, although colored flowers do not become pure white,—so, by analogy, the white bird would degenerate into a colored one, though the converse would be unnatural."

That the Colored Dorking should sport a white bird is not at all unnatural.

Among the early importation of Dorkings by American fanciers were the birds received by Dr. Eben Wright, of Boston, Mass., in 1839.

A pair of fawn-colored Dorkings, said to be a cross of White Dorkings and the fawn-colored Turkish fowl, was imported by Dr. P. B. Fagen in 1853. Dr. Fagen was sta-

tioned at Fort Des Moines, Iowa, as surgeon in United States Army at the time.

In 1840 Hon. L. F. Allen, of Black Rock, N. Y., imported a number of White and Colored Dorkings.

In 1854 N. C. Day, of Luenberg, Mass., introduced what he called the Black Dorking. It was shown that these birds were not imported; that they were not Dorkings, but a cross produced in Philadelphia.

English fanciers very early took hold of the Dorking and began the development of one of the most useful and beautiful fowls ever given to man. The White and Colored varieties alone were preserved, although a few specimens of the old red Dorking are yet to be found. Among the sub-varieties discarded were the Pencilled, Goldens, Red Speckled, Grays, and the Muff. No other breed or variety ever had, or since has, gained such a hold upon a people as did these Dorkings in England. As constituted and bred they were the most valuable of all market fowls. Not only this but from a fancier's standpoint they were a creation of rare beauty. All was going well with the Dorking and the men who were breeding them. It seemed as though no other fowl could ever drive them from their place. This was the condition prior to 1850, when the Shanghai craze reached England. The conservative Britons were swept off their feet. They lost their heads as well. The magnificent, the profitable Dorking was put aside, and the crude, ungainly and worthless Chinese intruder fondly embraced. The depreciation of the Dorking was but a natural conclusion of this false step of the English people. The Shanghai was crossed on the Dorking, in the hope of securing a larger fowl, and the demoralization was complete. Yet there were some fanciers more wise, or more loyal to the Dorking than were the whole people, who kept the Dorking intact and with them easily defeated the Shanghai and the Shanghai-Dorkings in the contests for best table poultry. The Shanghai craze lasted but a few years, for the Englishman is a very discerning fellow. The love of the people went back to the Dorking, and from that time these worthy fowls have been very dear to every Englishman.

The Silver Gray Dorking was a latter-day production, being the result of a cross of Silver Gray Game (Lord Hill's Games) on the Colored Dorking and top-crossed with the Colored Dorking. Some breeders resorted to crossing the White and Colored varieties in the production of the Silver Gray Dorking.

### STANDARD DORKINGS

The American Standard of Perfection recognizes the White Dorking, the Silver Gray Dorking and the Colored Dorking. The Silver Gray variety is most extensively bred in America, and by common consent is held to be the most beautiful of the Dorking family. For many years the venerable Henry Hales, of New Jersey, has been a powerful force behind the Dorking in America. Homer Davenport, of New Jersey, a short time ago succeeded in securing in England a few specimens of the old Red Dorking, and will try to perpetuate the variety.

The Dorking male is large, with a broad, low-set body that is rectangular in shape; a long, deep keel and short legs. The female closely resembles the male in shape. The skin and flesh of the Dorkings are white. They differ from most other breeds in having five toes. The Dorkings are fairly good egg producers, not ranking, however, with the most profitable fowls in this respect. It is as a market fowl that the Dorking excels all other breeds and varieties. They are very easily kept, bearing confinement without fault-finding, and are, in all, a very profitable breed.

### WHITE DORKINGS

Standard weights: Cock, 7½ pounds; cockerel, 6½ pounds; hen, 6 pounds; pullet, 5 pounds. In color, pure white in plumage throughout. Shanks and toes, white. Comb, rose.

### SILVER GRAY DORKINGS

Standard weights: Cock, 8 pounds; cockerel, 7 pounds; hen, 6½ pounds; pullet, 5½ pounds. Color of the male: body and fluff, black. Neck, silvery white, a narrow gray stripe extending down the middle of each feather of hackle is allowable. Back and saddle, silvery white. Wings, bows silvery white; primaries black on upper web, white on lower web; secondaries black on upper web, white on lower web, with black spot at end of each feather. Tail, greenish black. Cock may have a little white at end of tail. Beak white, streaked with horn. Thighs, black; shanks and toes, white. Comb, single, upright, with six well-defined points. Female body color silvery or slaty gray, free from dark marks across feathers; under part of body, gray.

### COLORED DORKINGS

Standard weights: Cock, 9 pounds; cockerel, 8 pounds; hen, 7 pounds; pullet, 6 pounds. In body color the male is black. Wing bows, light straw; primaries, black or dark slate. Secondaries, upper web, black; lower web, white. Tail, black. Beak, dark horn. Comb, single, six points. Body color of the female, dark brown, or black slightly mixed with gray.

### OTHER ENGLISH BREEDS

The Rep Cap is one of the oldest of English breeds. They were originally known by many different names in as many different localities—the Rosetops, Readheads, Carols, Yorkshire Ever-Layers, etc. The American Standard calls for the following weights in Red Caps: Cock, 7½ pounds; cockerel, 6 pounds; hen, 6 pounds; pullet, 5 pounds. The Red Caps are a non-setting breed; are splendid egg producers, and very handsome fowls. They have a rose comb. The ground work color of well-bred specimens is a chestnut bay, with red and black in some sections.

### THE ORPINGTONS

The American Standard of Perfection puts the Orpingtons in the English class, where they properly belong.

The Orpingtons were originated by Mr. Wm. Cook, of Orpington, County of Kent, England. Mr. Cook's first Orpingtons were the Blacks, which he exhibited at the Crystal Palace show, London, for the first time in 1886. Mr. Cook has thus told how he "made" the Black Orpington: Black sports from Barred Rocks bred to Black Minorcas; pullets from this cross mated to Black Langshan males.

Rose Comb Black Orpingtons were produced by breeding black sports from Barred Rocks to Black Minorcas; pullets from this mating were bred to a rose comb Black Langshan male, a sport of the Black Langshan.

A little later Mr. Cook brought out the Single Comb Buff Orpington. They created a sensation, and were immediately accepted by the fanciers and market poultrymen of England. They were soon brought to the United States, and have since found their way to every civilized country in the

world. They are a splendid variety, being extra good layers and a good table fowl. How they were created is told by Mr. Cook. He mated Colored Dorking pullets to Golden Spangled Hamburg male. Pullets of this mating were bred to Buff Cochin male.

Single Comb White Orpingtons were produced by mating White Leghorn cock to Black Hamburg females. Pullets of this cross were mated to White Dorking male.

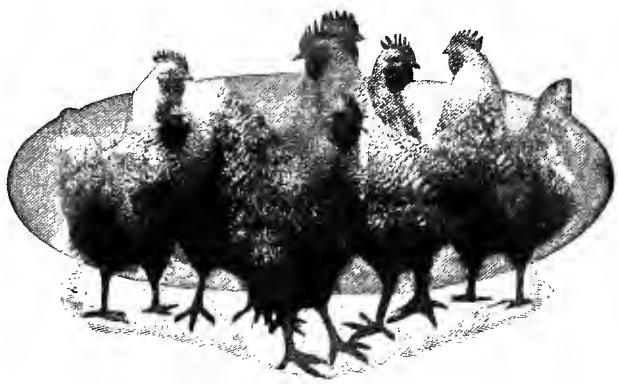
The Rose Comb White Orpington was the result of mating Rose Comb White Leghorn cock to Black Hamburg females, and the pullets thus secured being mated to a White Dorking male.

Diamond Jubilee Orpingtons were produced by using Speckled Dorkings where Colored Dorking was used in making the Buff Orpington. They are as yet far from perfection in color, being a mingling of red, white, black and straw color.

The Spangled Orpingtons are another of Mr. Cook's productions. In color they are white and black.

The American Standard of Perfection at present recognizes only the Single Comb Buff Orpington. Application has been made for recognition of the varieties mentioned here.

Standard weight of Single Comb Buff Orpingtons: Cock, 10 pounds; cockerel, 8½ pounds; hen, 8 pounds; pullet, 7 pounds. Color, rich golden buff. Shanks and toes, white or pinkish white. Beak, white or pinkish white. Comb, single, with five well-defined points.



# THE ORPINGTON FAMILY

**A Detailed Description of how this Grand Variety of Fowls was Originated by the Late Wm. Cook—How they Acquired the Name—The Single Comb Black Orpington was the First of this Family, Followed Closely by the Various Other Varieties.**

The Orpington is the name of a breed of fowls of which there are ten varieties and were all originated by the late William Cook in England, and before many years it is very probable that there will be more bred in this country than any of the other breeds. Some ten years prior to the origination of the first Orpington, in 1886, Mr. Cook saw that there was room for a new fowl, which would lay more eggs than any of the existing breeds, and especially in the winter time, when eggs are scarce, one that could stand a hot or cold climate, a hardy fowl, one to mature early, handsome in appearance and also a fine table fowl, with a good, fine grain of meat.

So it was in 1876 that Mr. Cook started out to produce a fowl with the above qualities; in this he was more than successful, bringing out the Black, White, Buff, Diamond Jubilee and Spangled Orpingtons, each variety having a single and a rose comb, thus making ten, all unequaled by any other breed as an exhibition or utility fowl.

The single-comb varieties are more popular than the rose-comb, and for one starting in the chicken business to make money by selling stock I should recommend the former, as the demand for these is greater; their size is also a little larger than the rose-comb.

The name of Orpington was taken from Mr. Cook's house and also the village about three miles from the residence in Kent, England, this being over five hundred years old.

One of the many great advantages the Orpington breed has is the selection one has as to colors and combs. Each variety is as good as the other for utility purposes, so that one just has to mention their favorite color and comb and there is sure to be an Orpington to suit.

As soon as produced in England they immediately became popular, and before four years were the leading fowls, as they are today, in every land they have been taken to, and they are fast getting to this position in South Africa, Australia, India and on the continent, where several of the agricultural governments have taken them up with great success, distributing them among the farmers to improve the poultry industry. This was, of course, after trying many other breeds, but they found the Orpingtons were far the best. In Australia and South Africa the British government paid the late Mr. Cook and the writer to take the Orpingtons and give advice on all poultry matters, right through these two countries. Americans like the best of everything. This is why the Orpingtons are becoming so popular here. Orpingtons are especially adapted to this country, where extreme climatic changes are met with; they are practically immune from the changes of the weather and do just as well in the extreme south of this country as in the north.

They possess a tremendous amount of vitality, which is very necessary for a fowl to have in a hot climate, as there are so many ticks, sandfleas, etc., to contend with. I have seen Orpingtons in Africa laying every day and yet covered with these pests and yet the other breeds that were on the farm, numbering some twenty-six kinds, were not giving an egg, and many were dying.

The Orpingtons became popular absolutely on their own merits. If only one pen of them gets into a town their excellent qualities soon become known by others and there will be dozens of pens before long. It is a well known fact that they will live and thrive where other fowls cannot even live. We have experience of that in Central Africa and in parts of India, where it is phenomenally hot.

The same story holds good in the Arctic, as well as the equatorial regions. Hens and pullets have averaged twenty-six eggs each per month during the worst months of the winter at Archangel, in northern Russia, on the White sea, one of the coldest inhabited parts of the world, also the same number of eggs in the northern parts of Canada. Probably the fowls you now keep stop laying when a cold spell of weather comes on. If so, try Orpingtons, and I do not think you will be bothered with this.

Orpingtons are unsurpassed as to their fine table qualities. They have full breast meat, also on the thigh, with good oysters, and the meat is very juicy and of very fine grain. They are usually ready for broilers two to three weeks earlier than other breeds, and although such a large fowl, commence to lay at five months old, if, of course, they are properly brought up. When a number of fowls are kept, one can readily understand why there is so much more profit by keeping Orpingtons, laying at least two months earlier than other breeds. This saves two months' feed bills. They have come out on top in nearly every laying contest that they have been entered in. When they have room they make good foragers and will pick up half their living. Although a heavy bird they are not lazy, like the majority of the heavy breeds. They also do well in confinement, and the smallest back yard is not too small for them to increase the income of their owner.

The Orpingtons have a distinct shape from other breeds, being short on the leg, with a large body, which is of a blocky appearance and yet has beautiful and graceful curves, and are also very heavy and yet the best layer in existence. Do you wonder they are popular?

I have had cocks weigh 15 pounds and hens up to 12 pounds, but such weights are exceptional, a cock of ten to twelve pounds and a hen eight pounds are large birds. A heavy bird is good as long as there is no excessive fat, as this will reduce the laying qualities. The exhibition birds are just as good layers as the utility stock.

They were taken up by royalty in England and the Royal yards at Frogmore and elsewhere are still stocked with them. Mr. Cook presented several pens to the late Queen Victoria, who was delighted with them, and every year purchased birds from Mr. Cook.

Another very good point in the Orpingtons' favor is the price. The best specimens are worth more than in any other breed. Seven hundred and fifty dollars has been paid for quite a few birds and more than this amount refused for some.

Many cockerels are sold every year in this country at $100 and $200 each and hens and pullets at $50 and $100 each. Many people think that such a large amount of money invested in one bird can never pay, but such is not the case. One will get a far better interest on their money than by buying cheaper stock. "The best always pays." A short rhyme in the American Orpington Club catalogue explains the whole situation in two short lines:

"No wonder Orpingtons are in such favor,
The largest income from the smallest labor."

Every breeder that I know of finds the demand for Orpingtons greater than the supply. When asked they all say they have not enough stock to fill their orders with, and that they could sell three times as many if they had them. Surely this will convince one that there is money in Orpingtons. One male can run with eight or ten hens. They are of a very quiet disposition and do not fly around on one coming near them. They make good mothers and are easily broken up if one wants to.

I will now explain how the ten varieties were made and why they possess such good qualities. I will take them in the order that they were originated.

### SINGLE COMB BLACK ORPINGTON

These fowls are of a beautiful beetle green color, with a bright metallic luster, which has to be seen to be appreciated. As stated before, Mr. Cook, in 1876, saw that a better breed of fowls was wanted, one that would combine weight, eggs and general usefulness, and also a bird of a handsome appearance, so it was in this year that he started out to make his ideal fowl. Mr. Cook had at this time over 3,000 pure bred fowls of different breeds; he noticed that the sports which were black from the Barred Plymouth Rock laid about forty more eggs per year than the Barred Rocks, and also laid a month to six weeks earlier, so he decided to use these as one of his breeds to cross.

The Black Minorcas were very fine layers of large eggs, their flesh was very white and tender, so cocks of this breed were mated to the Black Rock pullets. The Langshan, at that time, was the best winter layer in England, of a brown egg and plenty of them. They were then short on the leg and flesh of a fine grain.

Pullets produced from the two first breeds mentioned were mated to Langshan cocks. It took nine years' careful breeding to obliterate the feathered legs of the Langshan and to make up the birds as his ideal, doing away with the light body of the Minorca and yellow legs of the Rock.

Although Americans, as a rule, have not cared for black fowls, as soon as they see the Black Orpington, they are won over to them at once; they breed more true than any breed in existence and are exceptionally handsome and run a little heavier than any of the other Orpingtons. It was in 1886 that they were first made public. They immediately went to the front as the greatest utility fowl and they still and always will hold this position. The best specimens of this variety fetch more money than any of the others. They have become very popular in the States and Canada. so much so the prices have risen and one is really fortunate if they are able to secure any at all. They have lots of fine, juicy meat and lay a large, brown egg, skin is white. They have won two years running first prize as the best table fowls, exhibited at the Dairy Show in England, dressed ready for the table.

### ROSE COMB BLACK ORPINGTON

These were made in a similar way to the single comb, only rose comb Black Langshans were used instead of the single comb. There never existed a breed of rose comb Langshans, but when they were first imported into England from Shanghai, Mr. Cook secured a few specimens and used them in the formation of the R. C. Black Orpingtons. They are not quite so large as the single comb, but equally as good layers. They have a very smart appearance and are more popular than any of the other varieties of the rose comb Orpingtons.

### SINGLE COMB WHITE ORPINGTON

In 1880 Mr. Cook thought he ought to get to work and produce a White Orpington that would come out a few years after the blacks, as all people might not like this color. After several experiments to find out the best way of producing white fowls, he started by mating White Leghorn cocks with Black Hamburg pullets. Most of these pullets from the cross came very white. These were mated to White Dorking cocks, many of the progeny now came blue and barred, and it took many years to get the perfect white fowl and to get only four toes, as the Dorking has five. But by 1889 he had them as perfect as possible and introduced them to the public. These, like the blacks, had an enormous sale, which has always kept up, and they are now more popular than ever.

They possess the same good qualities as the black, great egg production, especially in the bad months of the year. For lovers of white fowls, which are certainly numerous, they are certainly the ideal fowl. They breed very true. There is not room here to go into their merits, but in the preface of this article most of them may be found. The only difference in the make-up of the Rose Comb White Orpingtons from the single comb is that the rose comb Dorking was used instead of the single comb. The same characteristics are contained in the two varieties, but they are not so popular as the single comb variety.

### SINGLE COMB BUFF ORPINGTON

Now we come to the most popular variety of the Orpington family, the Buff Orpington, although the Black and White are running them close for this position. Before the Black and White Orpingtons were perfected Mr. Cook was experimenting on a buff fowl. He knew that if he could produce a fowl with the ideal utility qualities and yet in a buff color, that it would be the most popular fowl in the world, and in this he was right. It was in 1885 that Mr. Cook finally started on the buffs and at this time it was a well known fact that he possessed the best laying Buff Cochins in the country, some had laid 41 eggs in 41 days, and were not so broody as most of them were. Before Mr. Cook started to make any of the varieties of the Orpingtons he knew exactly what he was going to make and worked until he got it.

He started by mating Golden Spangled Hamburg cocks with Colored Dorking hens of good size and of the best laying strains obtainable. (The Colored Dorking is also known as the Dark Dorking.) Many pullets from this cross came of a reddish brown color. These were mated to Buff Cochin cocks of the marvelous laying strains mentioned above.

Hamburgs were selected because they laid more eggs than any other breed of fowls then in existence and also because of their beautiful and perfect shape. The Dorking was used to get the length of breast bone and fine quality meat. This breed has always been considered the best for table purposes, and when crossed with the Hamburgs made fine layers. Cochins were used for their size and also their good winter laying qualities.

When one considers what had to be done to produce the Buff Orpington, Mr. Cook's perseverance and patience can be well appreciated.

The Hamburg had blue legs, white earlobes and black tail; Dorking had black tail and five toes on each foot; Cochin had yellow legs, with a lot of feathers on same, and yet the perfect Buff Orpington has white legs, free from feathers and buff color throughout.

It was at the Dairy Show in England in 1894 that Mr. Cook first presented the Buff to the public. In all he had a few more than 2,000 first class specimens. All that he could afford to sell were immediately purchased and orders for eggs were booked from the others that wanted them. If he had had three times this number of stock, it would have been an easy matter to sell all.

In the history of poultrydom the advance of the Buff Orpington stands absolutely alone, not another breed can begin to compare with it for popularity and usefulness. I do not believe it will be many years before the Buff Orpingtons are bred more in this country than any other breed. This is certainly saying a lot, but still it will come as it has in every other country.

Single specimens have sold for $750 each. It is easier to make money out of poultry since the Orpingtons came over here. There is always a ready market for good breeding stock at good prices and it can never be overdone. The Buff Orpingtons have a club devoted entirely to them, as well as the American Orpington Club.

The Rose Comb Buff Orpingtons possess the same good qualities as the single comb, not quite so large, but are becoming very pouular.

### S. C. DIAMOMD JUBILEE ORPINGTON

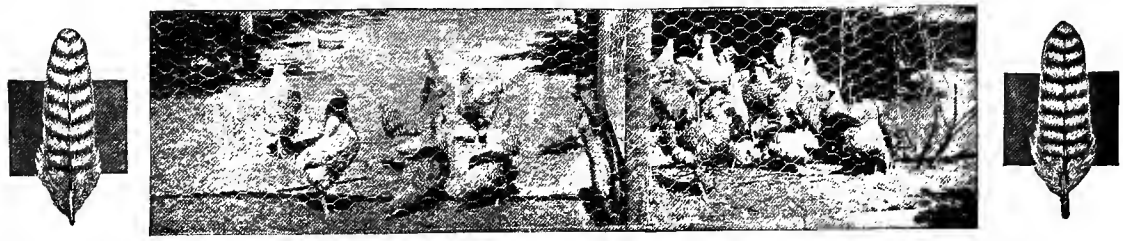
These were brought out in 1897 and at a suggestion of a friend were named the Diamond Jubilee Orpington, as it was then the late Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. These fowls were her late majesty's favorites. They were produced by mating the same breeds together as were used in the making of the Buff Orpingtons, only a Speckled Dorking (these birds are now extinct, I believe) was used instead of a colored one; this being used last.

Their shape is the same as in the other Orpingtons, although their color is quite unique. It is composed of three colors, as follows: The ground or main color is a rich reddish brown, then a black bar, which is usually beetle green, then tipped with white. The neck and saddle hackle is very pretty, being more of a deep golden color, with a thin black strip in the center and tipped with black and white.

They are very quick in maturing and are becoming very popular among lovers of speckled fowls. They eat almost as good as pheasants, which they resemble somewhat. The rose comb variety is not at all popular, every one wanting the single comb.

### S. C. SPANGLED ORPINGTON

Mr. Cook always liked a spangled fowl and after eight years' work produced the Spangled Orpington, in 1898. Dark Dorking cocks were mated to Barred Plymouth Rock hens. This cross gave pullets of great size, but almost black, with very little white in them, and just a little brown in the breast. These pullets were mated to Silver Spangled Hamburg cocks for shape and laying qualities. For some time the cockerels came of a drab color, but eventually this was obliterated and they now breed very true. The rose comb has not become very popular, all the demand being for the single comb. The plumage is a beetle green, with edges of feathers tipped with white. They are great layers and very hardy and people are very pleased with them. If you want to keep the best fowls keep Orpingtons, any of the varieties.



# THE FRENCH BREEDS

**The French Fowls, or Those Which have Long been Conceded to France, Comprise a very Interesting and Useful Family—The Houdan, the Most Widely Known and Extensively Bred by American and English Fanciers and by the People of France—Facts Regarding the Introduction of the Present Houdan Comb—Standard Requirememts of the Different French Breeds.**

The French people, largely peasant proprietors, and noted for their small economics, have always given more attention to market poultry than have any other people. The people of France consume more poultry per capita than do any other people. We should, therefore, expect the characteristic breed of a nation devoting so much time and care and thought to poultry to possess certain valuable qualities in a high degree, and this is certainly the case with the Houdan, Crevecoeur and La Flech. The Houdan is the most prized market fowl of these very particular and exacting Frenchmen.

## THE HOUDAN

Much has been written regarding the origin of the Houdan fowl that is not of value. The truth is that to-day no man can bring forth *facts* as to when, where or how the Houdan was first bred, or by whom so bred. The commonly accepted theory is that the Houdan is the result of a cross of the Dorking and the Polish. We do not believe this to be the case. During the thirty-four years that we have bred Houdans we have not seen any trace of Dorking blood crop out in the stock. Surely the blood of the Dorking, strong and thoroughly established, would have shown itself in some way in the stock during all these years if such blood had been used in the foundation of the Houdan.

Doyle, in his book, "*Domestic Poultry,*" 1854, refers to the "Muff Dorking" as a fowl having existed in England more than two hundred years ago. His "Muff Dorking" had crest and beard and five toes, as does the Houdan of to-day. It is not at all unreasonable to contend that here we have the original Houdan, although this position is not at all secure.

Monsieur P. Megnin thus speaks of the Houdan, perhaps of the fowl referred to by Doyle:

"The essential characteristics of the Houdan are a mixed plumage of black and white, a half crest and five toes on each foot. This indicates that they are derived from the common five-toed fowls that existed in the time of Columells, and which are still met with in the north of France and Belgium, and the old race of the Caux."

The "Book of Poultry," London, England, 1853, thus describes a fowl similar to the Houdan of 1850-1860:

"The Normandy fowls are entirely speckled in black and white; they have a small, erect top-knot, drooping backward like a lark-crest. The plumage of the male is much darker than that of the hen. In shape they are lengthy, but become contracted toward the tail. The cock's tail is of great length; his comb and wattles are of large size. The chickens are very peculiar, having at first perfectly black backs and white breasts; but they gradually become speckled, like the old birds. They have five claws; and the skin of the leg is pied black and white. This, however, turns to a blue leg with a whitish foot in the adult birds."

Here, too, it would seem, we find something which would warrant us in claiming definite knowledge of the early Houdan.

This we do know, that for more than two hundred years the Houdan has been the leading market fowl of France, the breed taking its name from the small town of Houdan. This fowl is thus described by Mr. Ch. Jacque in his *Le Poulailler*:

"This bird has short, thick legs, and a round, well-proportioned body, large head, small top-knot, falling backward. It is bearded and has five toes on each foot. It is a good-sized fowl, weighing, when fully grown, cock, six pounds; hen, four and one-half to six pounds. The plumage should be speckled white and black, and straw color. The comb is the most remarkable part of the bird. Comb: Triple, transversely in the direction of the beak, composed of two flattened spikes, of long and rectangular form, opening from right to left like two leaves of a book, thick, fleshy, and irregular at the edges. A third spike grows between these two, having somewhat the shape of an irregular strawberry, and the size of a long nut. Another, quite detached from the others, and about the size of a pea, should show between the nostrils and above the beak."

The American history of the Houdan began in 1859, when Mr. J. D. H. Armstedt, of Philadelphia, brought over from France five head of the stock. The following year, and before breeding this stock, Mr. Armstedt moved to Kentucky and, unfortunately, lost the male bird. A number of importations were made in 1863-4-5. Among the early importers was Dr. J. F. Simonds, then of Iowa Falls, Iowa, now a resident of Riverdale, Maryland. In 1872 Dr. Simonds sold his entire flock to Dr. James Rigg. Wishing to secure from him the facts regarding this stock, we wrote Dr. Simonds. His letter in reply is as follows:

RIVERDALE, MD., June 26, 1905.

Mr. Thomas F. Rigg, Iowa Falls, Iowa.

Dear Sir: I have your inquiry of the 24th inst., relative to the Houdan fowls I sold to your father, Dr. James Rigg, in 1872.

The Houdans I brought to Iowa Falls in 1865 were imported from France in the spring of that year by a Frenchman who had worked for my father in Vermont. This man returned to his old home in France in the autumn of 1864, and by a special agreement brought me a trio of Houdans when he returned the next year. He shipped them to me by express from New York. This fact was *burned* into my memory by an express bill of $9.50.

The Houdan did not prove to be a good sitter, and as we had no incubators then, I hatched all their eggs under other hens: but they were the best layers I had. I had one sitting of 15 eggs all hatch in the "extempore" incubator. A Houdan hen stole her nest on the south side of an old straw stack, near the top, and I suppose the gentle bottom heat resulting from the slowly decaying straw of the stack, supplemented by the direct sun rays, afforded as perfect an incubator as can be made. At all events, I don't know any that can hatch more than 100 per cent.

J. F. SIMONDS.

The first Houdans to be shown in America were exhibited at Worcester, Mass., in 1867.

The Houdan of to-day is a far different bird from that de-

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THE HOLLISTER PRESS, CHICAGO

FIRST PANEL—Reading from left to right. Golden Spangled Hamburgs, Silver Spangled Hamburgs, Black Hamburgs. SECOND PANEL—Houdans, Golden Penciled Hamburgs, Silver Penciled Hamburgs. THIRD PANEL—Red Pyle Games, Silver Duckwings, Brown Red Games. FOURTH PANEL—Black Breasted Red Games, Cornish Indians, Black Breasted Red Malays.

scribed by Jacque and those shown at Worcester. The huge, ungainly comb has been displaced by the neat V-shaped comb; the small "top-knot" has given place to a large, compact and beautiful crest; the size of the fowl has been increased; the plumage has been made a thing of beauty, evenly and regularly mottled black and white.

To Dr. James Rigg is due the credit and the honor of producing and giving to the world the V-shaped comb in the Houdan. As stated, he secured by purchase the Dr. Simonds stock in 1872. In December, 1874, he exhibited V-shaped comb Houdans at Dubuque, Iowa. These were the first Houdans ever shown with this comb and the first produced.

The late B. N. Pierce (who introduced the score card system of judging in the west) officiated as judge at the Dubuque exhibition. He did not take kindly to the V-shaped comb, holding that while a Houdan with such a comb presented a far better appearance than one with ill-shaped, strawberry-like comb, the latter comb was the true Houdan comb. The following letter will here prove interesting:

CORNING, IOWA, January 10, 1875.

Dr. James Rigg, Dubuque, Iowa.

Dear Sir: I have your letter of the 3rd inst. As I said to you in the show room in Dubuque, I greatly admire the V-shaped comb you have produced on the Houdans, but I am not yet prepared to advocate its adoption by breeders of Houdans. I am a stickler for breed characteristics, and while I believe the present Houdan comb is too large, and that it should be reduced in size and shaped up, I do not want to see the form entirely done away with. I think a neat leaf comb would best fit the Houdan. Yours respectfully,

B. N. PIERCE.

Mr. Pierce lived to see the V-shaped comb introduced by Dr. Rigg accepted by all American breeders of the Houdan, and adopted by the American Poultry Association.

We can state as a positive fact that neither Dr. Simonds nor Dr. Rigg used any Creve blood in the flock from whence came these V-shaped comb Houdans. The charge was made that Dr. Rigg did use Creve blood in his production of the V-shaped comb. A number of years later Daniel Pinckney produced some birds with the V-shaped comb. It was owing to the efforts of Capt. James E. White that this style of comb was adopted by the American Poultry Association and made the Standard comb.

To Dr. Rigg, Daniel Pinckney, James E. White, Mr. Butters and Mr. Aldrich is due the credit of establishing the Houdan of to-day. The Rigg strain has been kept intact during all these long years by the writer of this paper. The Pinckney stock has become scattered, Mr. Pinckney retiring from the active fancy a number of years ago on account of advanced age. Capt. White is now an official of the United States government in Washington, D. C., and his strain has become extinct. The Aldrich-Butters strain was long ago allowed to become but a part of the common blood of the Houdan family.

The Houdan is a most excellent table fowl. The Houdan carries more breast meat than the Dorking, Plymouth Rock or Wyandotte. The flesh is of the finest quality, being well developed in the finer parts of the body. They are good layers of large white eggs, are non-sitters, and are very hardy as chicks and fowls.

The Standard of Perfection calls for the following weights: Cock, 7 pounds; hen, 6 pounds; cockerel, 6 pounds, pullet, 5 pounds. Plumage color of the Houdan, distinct black and white. The glossy black feathers should be tipped with white in the proportion of about one tipped feather to three solid black feathers. Color of shanks and toes, pinkish white, mottled or shaded with lead color or black. Flights and secondaries of both sexes and tail covets of male are irregularly edged with white, especially at base of tail. Black to predominate.

### THE CREVECOEUR

This is one of the oldest of the French breed. In France it is known as the Picardy breed, and takes its name from the village of Crevecoeur, in the Department of l'Oise. The breed has not taken a strong hold on the American fancy, and but comparatively few are to be found in the country. They are a handsome and useful fowl. In plumage color a solid rich, glossy black throughout. Crest, large, regular and black. Comb, V-shaped. Standard weights: Cock, 8 pounds; cockerel, 7 pounds; hen, 7 pounds; pullet, 6 pounds.

### THE LA FLECHE

These fowls have been called the "devil of the poultry yard." They are not deserving of this, although they do present a striking and somewhat fierce appearance with their long, large and powerful bodies, large comb and solid black dress. They are a cross of the Crevecoeur and Black Spanish. The Standard weights are: Cock, 8½ pounds; cockerel, 7½ pounds; hen, 7½ pounds; pullet, 6½ pounds. They are one of the best of market fowls, the quality, texture, quantity and flavor of the flesh being unsurpassed. Color of plumage, black throughout. Shanks and toes, black and lead color.

### THE FAVEROLLES

The Faverolles were produced in France a few years ago, the original birds being a cross of the Houdan and Dorking. They were taken up by English fanciers and boomed with vigor. Mr. J. B. Thomas, Jr., of Connecticut, imported a number of these birds in 1891. The original Faverolle was a salmon-colored bird, cocks weighing from 7½ to 8 pounds; cockerels, 6½ to 7½ pounds; hens, 6 to 7 pounds; pullets, 5 to 6½ pounds. They have the fifth toe of the Houdan and Dorking, and the beard of the Houdan. Within a short time we have been given the Ermine, the Black and the Blue Faverolles. The Ermine resembles in color the Light Brahma, and this suggests its origin. The Black Faverolle is not unlike the Black Langshan in color, and the Blue Faverolle carries the dress of the Blue Andalusian. The Faverolle is a good market fowl and egg producer.

# THE SPANISH BREEDS

**The So-Called Spanish Fowl Not an Aboriginal of Spain, but Brought to that Country from Some Point in the East Through the Mediterranean—Taken to England it was Used Upon the Common Fowls of that Country—By Selection and Restriction the Minorca, Blue Andalusian and Ancona Were Given Established Color Markings and Form—The Rose Comb Black Minorca a Distinct American Production.**

That group of fowls embracing the White-Faced Black Spanish, Minorcas, Andalusians and Anconas is sought and retained by breeders and fanciers who desire productive egg producers rather than market poultry. The breeds and varieties making up this group are indeed great egg producers. Not only this, the eggs they lay are large and handsome, and in some quarters bring a price in advance of that of market eggs. These fowls are prominent in the yards of fanciers and breeders the world over.

## WHITE-FACED BLACK SPANISH

The White-Faced Black Spanish is the oldest of the so-called Spanish breeds, in fact one of the oldest distinct breeds of fowls known to man. It is a fowl of striking appearance. "The rich, glossy, black plumage, the rather large, five-pointed comb, the long, pendulous white face, gives this early claimant to popular favor distinct individuality among Standard-bred fowls." The Standard weights are: Cock, 8 pounds; cockerel, 6½ pounds; hen, 6½ pounds; pullet, 5½ pounds.

Martin Doyle, 1854, London, writing of the history of the Spanish (so-called) fowls said:

"The Spanish fowl is not an aboriginal of Spain, but was imported into that country either from some portion of the East, through the Mediterranean, or, as has been affirmed, from the West Indies, by Spanish merchants, and subsequently propagated and naturalized in Spain. Thence European countries were stocked. The name is therefore a misnomer. These birds differed from the present Spanish in having a smaller and less white face and darker feet and shanks. We find that previous to the introduction of the bird in question, a diminutive species, known by the name of Manx, was the common class of fowls reared in Spain; these two breeds were crossed together; varieties were thence raised, and the present sub-varieties of the Spanish fowl are partly the result. In Holland, before the naturalization of the Spanish fowl there, a domesticated bird,—in color a dun, or bluish slate—though much inferior to the other, prevailed; but if we carefully observe the variations in this latter class, it becomes evident that such differences are the result of admixture with the primitive blood.

"Of first class specimens, Spain to-day can make but little boast, though from the Netherlands may be obtained birds of greater beauty as to form and feather, and of the highest value as regards quality and breed. And though Holland was originally supplied by Spain, the mixed varieties previously propagated in the latter country were quite sufficient to produce in time a cross and mixture which defies all effort to detect in them any resemblance to the original stock, unless by a person acquainted intimately with the nature, form, and habits of the birds.

"The Spanish fowl has long been naturalized in Great Britain with great success, and considering the high perfection it has attained, we are justified in asserting, which has often been advanced, that our climate is as perfectly adopted to the genus *Gallus* as any in the world. That the fowls brought from India were primitive breeds, is pretty certain; but that many bearing the name of Spanish, though far from being purely of that breed,—possessing neither their beauty nor good qualities—do in the present day abound, is beyond doubt; yet there are others which, although not literally belonging to the primitive stock, being unquestionably an admixture, are nevertheless upon a perfect footing of equality with it, and if intrinsic value be the criterion of rank, justly deserving by their good qualities the name of Spanish."

When the Single Comb Black Minorcas came upon the boards the White-Faced Black Spanish immediately declined in popular favor, and is to-day bred by but few fanciers, comparatively. It is the belief of the majority of breeders that the Minorca is a stronger, more robust, and more easily raised fowl than the White-Faced Black Spanish, and, also, a better egg producer. This, of course, is disputed by the champions of the Spanish.

## THE MINORCAS

The Single Comb Black Minorca is an English product—that is the Minorca of to-day. They were originally called the Red-Faced Spanish to distinguish them from the original Spanish—the White-Faced. The White-Faced Black Spanish are the basis upon which this Minorca was builded. The English *Stock-Keeper*, London, August, 1888, printed a cut of Single Comb Black Minorcas from a photo of an oil painting made in 1810. Mr. J. Harwood, in an article accompanying this photo, said that these fowls were natives of Devon and Cornwall "long before many other breeds were heard of." The hens shown in this cut possess much of the Minorca form of to-day. The comb was exceedingly large and irregular.

Referring to the crosses of the original so-called Spanish fowls in England, Mr. Doyle, further said:

"In England the original stock has met with several crosses, more or less resembling one or the other of its progenitors, and in course of time a name has been appropriated to these varieties, as though each was a separate species. They are Minorcas, Andalusians and Anconas."

Thus we see that the fowls included in this group are nearly related, each tracing back to the White-Faced Black Spanish.

The Minorcas immediately won popular favor in England, and were soon sought by fanciers of the United States. The first movement of any consequence in this direction was made in 1878. Since then the breed has been greatly improved in form and head points. The color in plumage throughout is brilliant black, free from purple. The Standard weights of the Single Comb Blacks are: Cock, 9 pounds; cockerel, 7½ pounds; hen, 7½ pounds; pullet, 6½ pounds.

The Rose Comb Black Minorcas are now one of the most popular and eagerly sought of the new varieties. They were produced by Geo. H. Northup, of New York. Mr. Northup states that none but Minorca blood is in their veins—that they

were originally sports from his Single Comb Black Minorcas. They are Minorcas in form and bearing, differing only in that they have a rose rather than a siugle comb. The Standard calls for weights one pound less than that required of the single comb variety.

The Single Comb White Minorcas have not gained so prominent a plaee as that held by the Blacks. They are the equal of the Blacks as egg producers, and it seems strange that they are not more popular. They are of the same weight as the Rose Comb Blacks. They are a beautiful pure white fowl, and must, in the natural course of events, occupy a very prominent place in the poultry world. They are a new variety, comparatively. It is maintained by some that they are a sport of the Blacks. Others hold that they were produced by a cross of the White Leghorn and White Game.

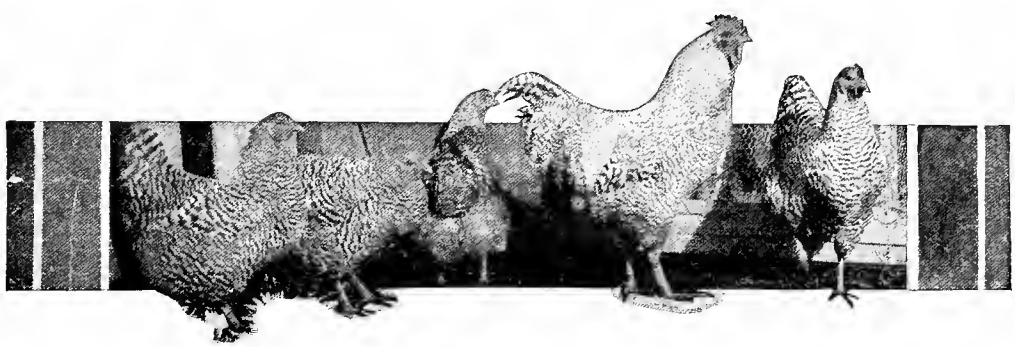
### THE ANCONAS

As has been stated by Mr. Doyle the Anconas are a cross of the White-Faced Black Spanish, or a sub-variety of a cross of this fowl, upon Englsh stock of like form. They were produced in England in a very early day, without effort, it would seem, being for many years the common or door-yard fowls of the people. They found friends in later years who undertook to perfect them, to give them established color markings and form. They were brought to this country in an early day, but soon lost their individuality. During the past few years several importations have been made. They are now quite extensively bred in this country. In shape and form the Standard requirements are the same as those of the Leghorn. They are the smallest of the Spanish group, being somewhat larger than the Leghorn. The plumage is beetle-green ground, the feathers tipped with white, evenly mottled throughout, with no tendency to lacing. Shanks and toes yellow or yellow shaded or mottled with black. Wattles red, ear lobes white. Single comb. They are non-sitters, and exeeedingly good layers.

### BLUE ANDALUSIANS

The Blue Andalusians, one of the prettiest and most unique of fowls, is also a direct descendant of the Black Spanish. Its origin is like that of the Anconas—the result of the Black Spanish blood being united with that of the common fowl of England in an early day. The Blue Andalusian is a remarkable egg producer. It is somewhat difficult to breed true to feather, many of the chicks reverting back to the black plumage color of their aneestors. This has led the statement to be made that the Blue Andalusian is the parent of the Black Minorca, but this will not hold good. The Standard weights for the breed are: Cock, 6 pounds; cockerels, 5 pounds; hen, 5 pounds; pullet, 4 pounds. The plumage color is most pleasing, being a elean, even shade of slaty-black, with wing-bows of male blue-black. Each feather on breast of male has a well defined lacing of a darker shade of blue. Tail of male a glossy bluish-black. Single comb with five points.

During the past two years we have seen a few specimens of rose comb Blue Andalusians. They are very crude specimens as yet.



# THE HAMBURGS

**The Origin of the Golden and Silver Penciled Hamburgs not Positively Known, Chaucer in His Book, Printed in the Fourteenth Century, Referring to them as Turkish Cocks and Hens—The Other Varieties of the Family are Clearly of English Origin—Description of Some of These Fowls Which Existed in England Long Before What we now Term Breeds of Fowls were Known or Recognized.**

The Hamburgs are among the most attractive of domestic fowls. The plumage, coloring and markings are delicate, yet striking and beautiful. In form they are graceful and jaunty.

They represent the highest type of the poultry fancier's products in the way of exquisite markings and color blending.

The Hamburgs are, too, wonderful egg producers. They are a little smaller than the Leghorns. In America and England they are by common consent accorded first place as a strictly fancier's fowl.

The Standard of Perfection recognizes six varieties of the Hamburgs, as follows: Golden Spangled, Silver Spangled, Golden Penciled, Silver Penciled, White and Black.

## ORIGIN OF THE HAMBURGS

The earliest reference in literature (which we can find after a very careful search) to the Hamburgs is in Chaucer's "The Nonne's Preeste's Tales," printed in the 14th century. Here we find reference to a fowl resembling the Golden variety. His lines are applicable to the Golden Penciled cock:

"His comb was redder than the fine *corall,*
Embattled as it were a castel wall;
His bill was black, and as the jet it shown,
Like azure where his legges and his tone (toes),
His nails whiter than lily flour,
And like the burned gold was his color."

Buffon, naturalist, born 1707, died 1788, in one of his works referred to the Black Hamburg cock as being "velvet breeches," from the black, velvety appearance of the bird.

Ulysses Aldrovandus, professor of natural history at Bolonga, born 1522, died 1607, writer of works on ornithology, zoology and botany, gave an illustration in one of his books of a pair of fowls closely resembling the Hamburgs. He called them the "Turkish cock and hen." He said:

"The cock whose likeness we give is called the Turkish cock. His whole body is in a manner inclined to be white. Still, the wing feathers were partly black as were the feathers on the breast. The tail consists of feathers partly white and partly black; some half green, some half black. His whole body is exquisitely adorned with lines that are sometimes golden, sometimes silver, and it is wonderful what a beautiful effect this produces. His legs and feet are tinged with blue. The hen is all white, sprinkled all over with black spots. The hen would seem the same, except that her neck is yellowish. She had a sharp point on top of her head; her feet altogether blue and an immacuate tail."

It is somewhat confusing, the statement of Aldrovandus that "the lines were sometimes golden and sometimes silver." It is to be presumed that he did not mean this as applying to a single specimen, but that he had in mind individual cocks of the Golden and Silver varieties.

It will appear that long before what we now term breeds of fowls were known or recognized the Hamburgs were bred to feather and form by the peasants in Yorkshire and other parts of England. We cannot come to the conclusion that the original Hamburgs, the penciled varieties, were found in Holland and from there taken to England in the 14th century, as is so commonly believed. The Whites, Blacks, Silver and Golden Spangled varieties are clearly of English production. They in time found their way to Holland.

The words of Aldrovandus make it not unlikely that the Golden and Silver penciled varieties were natives of Turkey or, at least, of Eastern origin, and not originally of Holland. But it is now too late for the most diligent searches of facts to obtain positive information as to the origin of the Hamburgs.

Dixon, the eminent authority, classified the early Hamburgs, or what we may now rightly claim as the parent stock of the present Hamburgs, as follows:

1. Penciled fowls, distinguished by light hackles.
2. Spangled fowls, with darker hackles.

Fowls with pure white hackles or clear unmixed yellow hackles are included in the first general class.

Those of pure white hackles are Chittaprats, Bolton Grays, Penciled Dutch, Creole or Coral, Silver Hamburgs.

Those of unmixed yellow are Bolton Bays, Golden Hamburgs.

Those with white hackles striped in the center with black he placed in the second class, as follows: Silver Spangled, Silver Mooneys, Silver Moss.

In the second division of the same class he placed those having yellow hackles striped in center with black, brown or green, as follows: Golden Spangled, Gold Mooneys, Copper Moss.

Doyle, 1854, individualized the various Hamburgs, according to Dixon's order of arrangement, as follows:

"We have now to consider Chittaprats, Bolton Grays and Penciled Dutch (they are frequently imported from Rotterdam), Silver Hamburgs and Creoles, altogether, as one and the same family; therefore one family picture will include them all. The ground color is pure white, with delicate black pencilings, which, however, in the cock are few; both hackles white and quite free from pencilings; wings, barred with black; tail black; sickle feathers edged with pinkish white; comb, double and coral-colored; ear lobes white. The hen should have a pure white neck. The whole of the body, wings and tail should be delicately but distinctly penciled with clear black, upon a clear white ground, and there are in general such distinct pencilings or bars across each feather on the body, the extremes being marked the most distinctly. The tail and flight feathers should be barred all the way up them.

"The Bolton Bays, or Golden Hamburgs, come next before us, the former being but a provincial name for the latter.

"This is the second division of the first or penciled class, and distinguished from it by having 'a clean, unmixed ochry-yellow ground, instead of white.'

"The Silver Spangled are a sub-variety of the Silver Penciled, and also have white for their ground color and black

spots upon every feather. We think that the spangle which appears in a circular form is the most correct, for when of the crescent or horseshoe shape it appears to be passing towards the laced character. When the spangle is of the crescent form the plumage may have a gayer and lighter aspect, but when the spangle is circular or oval the plumage is richer to the eye. The ground color must be perfectly clear.

"The Golden Spangled only differs from the Silver Spangled in having a yellow or golden bottom color. In all other respects they are the same."

These words of Doyle indicate that prior to 1854 the Hamburgs were bred to feather as well as they are today, or nearly so.

While there is some doubt as to origin of the Golden and Silver Penciled varieties it is a well known and established fact that the perfection of the Hamburgs is due wholly to the skill and patience and untiring energy of the English fanciers. The world's greatest artists never so harmoniously, so skillfully and so beautifully blended colors upon the canvas as they have been blended and harmonized in the plumage of the Hamburg fowls. None but an Englishman could have accomplished this task, which in the end gave us this richly colored and distinctly marked race of fowls. It required the inherent love of the beautiful, the methodical temperament, the unyielding nature, all possessed by the Englishman, to carry out this tedious and apparently never-ending task. England today produces and supplies the world with the best Hamburgs.

### BREED CHARACTERISTICS

In the Hamburgs we have the most graceful and symmetrical type of fowls. They are valued most highly for their beauty of form and color markings. They have no standard weight or size clause.

Here in America the Silver Spangled variety is the most popular, being quite extensively bred.

Color of the male: Neck, white, each feather ending with an enlongated black spangle. Back feathers should be white, spangled with black. Each feather of breast must end with a large black spangle. Body and fluff like breast. Wingbows, silvery white, spangled with black; primaries, white with black edging on end of each feather; secondaries, each feather ending with large black spangles. Coverts, white, each feather ending with a large black spangle, forming two distinct parallel bars across the wings. Tail, white on outside, each feather ending with a large black spangle. Undercolor, dark slate. Color of legs and toes, leaden blue. Comb, rose, covered on top with small points, terminating at rear with spike, which inclines upward very slightly.

In color the Golden Spangled is the same as the Silver, substituting rich golden bay for white.

Color of Golden Penciled male: Neck, rich bay. Back, rich reddish-bay. Breast, reddish-bay. Body and fluff, glossy reddish-bay, the sides below the wing penciled across with black bars; fluff, black. Wingbows, bright reddish-bay; primaries, upper web black; lower web, bay; secondaries, upper web, reddish-bay, penciled across with black bars; lower web, reddish-bay, each feather ending with a small black spot. Tail, black; sickles and coverts, greenish black, with edging of black reddish-bay, the narrower the better. Undercolor, dark slate. In the female each feather of body and fluff is penciled across with parallel bars of greenish black.

The Silver Penciled is the same as the Golden Penciled, substituting silvery white for reddish-bay.

The Black Hamburg is clad in a plumage of greenish black throughout.

The White Hamburg is pure white in plumage, quills and shafts included.

The Hamburg, better than any other fowl, satisfies those persons who desire poultry possessing rare beauty and fairly good utility qualities combined.

The Hamburgs are large classes in the leading shows of America and England.

# THE RHODE ISLAND REDS

**The Rhode Island Reds are a Breed Made and Finished by Out-breeding, not In-breeding, as is Usual in the Establishment of a New Breed or Variety—More than Sixty Years Ago the Foundation of this Breed was Laid by Farmers in Rhode Island and Massachusettes, this being Red Cochin China Fowls Brought by a Sea Captain to a Massachusetts Port.**

Dr. N. B. Aldrich, Fall River, Mass., has given a very interesting and undoubtedly correct review of the origin of the Rhode Island Reds, the same being contributed to *Red Hen Tales,* the official organ of the Rhode Island Red Club. Dr. Aldrich says:

"I am not one of those who is willing to say, "Never mind the origin of the 'Reds' or any other worthy variety of fowl." I have been breeding poultry for twenty odd years, and I am always interested in the origin of every breed. Go back into history with me fifty years, and we find that, at that time, 1846-1850, different Asiatic breeds were introduced into this country, especially in neighborhoods that were near the coast. One variety, the Shanghai fowl (yellow and white), was introduced just after the Cochin China, and the two breeds for a time became confused, and "many farmers and poulterers declare, spite of feathers or no feathers (on their legs), that their fowls are Cochin Chinas or Shanghais, just as they please." At this time Bennett, in his poultry book, says: "There are but few, if any, bona fide Shanghai fowls now for sale." These Shanghai fowls (Simon pure) were heavily feathered on the legs. Not so with the Cochin China. At this time the Cochin Chinas were bred extensively in southeastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Dr. Alfred Baylies of Taunton, Mass., imported in July, 1846, specimens of the yellow Cochin Chinas. "The cockerels were generally red." These were not specimens of what were called the Royal Cochin Chinas, as bred by the Queen of England, but direct importations. "The Royal Cochin Chinas were one-third larger." The Shaughais were heavily feathered in the legs; these imported Cochin Chinas lightly feathered, if at all. The ship Huntress, in May, 1847, direct from Cochin China, brought a pair of this variety of fowl, and Mr. Taylor, in speaking of them, says, "The imported cock was a peculiar red and yellowish Dominique, and the hen a bay or reddish brown;" that the young stock varied "only in shade of color." Bennett says, "The legs of both sexes are of reddish yellow, sometimes, especially in the cocks, decidedly red—more so than in any other variety." How many times I have called attention to the red pigment in a R. I. Red cock's legs.

"So much, then, for the Red Cochin China cock of fifty years ago. The sea captains brought home just such specimens to Little Compton, R. I., but a little later came the great Malay fowl, with its knotty knob of a comb—a comb that even today occasionally is to be seen on the R. I. Reds. The Jersey Blues —Bucks County and Boobies—were inferior varieties of Malays. The great Malays came from the peninsula of that name, at the southern point of the continent of Asia. They were spoken of as "serpent headed." Their color was dark brown or reddish, streaked with yellow; some varieties of Malays run more reddish than others. In Little Compton was introduced what was known as the Red Malay. The Red Cochin China and the Red Malay cocks were selected, and crossed with flocks of fowls in Little Compton forty and fifty years ago, the same as today. Later, before the Wyandotte fever, the R. C. Brown Leghorn was introduced into many flocks of fowls in the neighborhood. Even at the time of the introduction of the R. C. Brown Leghorns the red fowls were spoken of as R. C. Reds. In a certain section, where the Leghorn blood was not used, today old settlers speak of their fowls as Red Malays. In this section ten years ago the Reds were all of the single comb variety, whereas ten or twelve miles further south were to be found Rose Combs in abundance.

"Now, Mr. Editor, let me say right here, and I wish to say it plainly, there were no Pea Comb Reds ten years ago, any more than today. Why should R. I. Reds have Pea Combs? Where is the comb to come from? It is not even the common comb of the barnyard fowl. Pea Comb Rocks were once admitted to the standard, only to be dropped again. I do not believe the Red Club will admit Pea Combs only to be dropped again." [The Club and the American Poultry Association has refused to admit the Pea Comb variety—T. F. R.]

Dr. Aldrich supplemented the above article with the following:

"If I were to say that the foregoing article told the whole story of R. I. Reds, I would be making a mistake. This breed derives its name Rhode Island Red from the male bird. The utility farmers of that section of Rhode Island known as Little Compton for nearly sixty years, have been selecting red males and leaving the females to be what they may. By this means they have carefully out-bred this now famous breed. Probably today there is not in the whole world another breed of fowls produced by fifty years of out-breeding. If it were only so, how much more vigor our several breeds would have. The R. I. Reds stand as the only proof of what out-breeding will do. We fanciers do not live years enough to compose a breed deliberately, unless we in-breed, but it was not so with the original R. I. Red breeders, they knew the Red cock was the most vigorous and almost unconsciously they made a breed.

"The famous Barred Plymouth Rock, called more than once the "American mongrel," was not produced by out-breeding, and right here it might be of interest to note that the early Plymouth Rocks produced red males. Listen to Dr. Bennett's own statement: "I have given this name (Plymouth Rocks) to a very extra breed of fowls, which I produced by crossing a cockerel of Baylies importation of Cochin China with a hen, a cross between the fawn colored Dorking, the Great Malay and the Wild Indian (game). The cocks are usually red or speckled." By a later cross with the Black Java and in-breeding, were produced the modern Barred Rocks.

"In regard to Rose Comb R. I. Reds, I am positive the rose comb variety existed long before the introduction of Leghorn blood. Old settlers assure me, their fathers brought home Red cocks with rose combs, and I have been informed that some Cochin Chinas had rose combs. There was also a red variety of Chittagongs, and Mr. Rugg says "sometimes there is a rose comb." I know my grandmother and others had Chittagongs

in this neighborhood fifty years ago; possibly, the rose comb on our reds may date back to Red R. C. Chittagongs.

"In reviewing this subject, one thing has struck me very forcibly, and that is, that Red cocks were numerous in 1850; just think of the different breeds that produce them. At the first Boston Poultry Show held at the Public Gardens on Nov. 16, 1849, Red Shanghais and Cochin Chinas, "the cockerels were generally red," were exhibited, as well as Plymouth Rocks, which, as I said before, produced Red males. At this time, we also find Red Malays and Red Chittagongs. The Shakebag fowl were imported to this country by Mr. J. L. Tucker of the Tremont House, Boston. Mr. Mowbray thus writes of one in his possession, "The only one I ever possessed was a red one in 1784, weighing about ten pounds," and Dickson says "the plumage of the male is brilliant in the extreme, being a bright red—the hens are of a bright yellow." I do not need to quote more to convince you that Red cocks are nothing new, even though the world did loose sight of them, except isolated Little Compton, R. I. It was the ghost of Hamlet's father who, suddenly hearing the crowing of the cock, announces abruptly, that he "snuffs the morning air," and then vanishes to his dreary home. Probably this very crower was a Red cock.

The red rooster of fifty years ago vanished to a small country village, but now has been returned to the large world. If the R. I. Reds were not a worthy breed they would have been relegated from the show room long before this. Little Compton, R. I., and Wertfort, Mass., are adjoining towns, lying to the southward of Fall River, Mass. One small vessel from 1827 to 1850 made about twenty-five trips annually between Westfort and Providence, R. I., averaging 400 dozen of eggs. The total was 3,450,000, and the value of them $35,000. This gives some idea of the value of the ancestors of the Reds in 1850. Finally a few of us discovered the Reds and the "colossy plan" of raising fowls. We have tried to give the world the benefit of Little Compton's breed and experience, and trust that the Rhode Island Red Club will prove as careful in guardian of the Reds as the whole-hearted farmers of Rhode Island did."

## EARLY HISTORY OF THE BREED

A few breeders of Rhode Island Red fowl held a meeting in the Coffee Tavern, Fall River, Mass., in February, 1898, and, after discussing the feasibility of organizing a Rhode Island Red Club and deciding in the affirmative, elected officers as follows: President, Daniel P. Shove; vice-presidents, William P. Shepard and Thomas W. Roe; secretary and treasurer, John Crowther. These officers were voted "power to act" in promoting the interests of the breed.

On the 10th day of the following December, during the Fall River poultry show, a meeting of "all interested Rhode Island Red breeders" was held at the request of the gentlemen named at which a standard for the Reds was formulated. Those who took a leading part in the discussion of this document were Dr. N. B. Aldrich, John Crowther, John W. Freelove and Vernon L. Stafford, of Fall River, Mass.; Daniel P. Shove, of Somerset; William P. Shepard, of South Swansea; Fred W. Cochrane, of East Somerville, and Mr. Proctor, representing the Poultry Monthly. At this meeting the original officers were re-elected and a third vice-president was chosen in the person of Rowland G. Buffinton. The standard adopted at this time proved to be an excellent working guide to breeders till the Boston meeting of 1901 when a more formal description and a more detailed statement of the points of excellence of the breed were decided upon. In the meantime, the membrship had grown to upwards of fifty. Included in the list were breeders from about a dozen States. The election of officers at this meeting resulted in the choice of Hon. Charles M. Bryant, of Quincy, Mass., as president; William P. Shepard, South Swansea, R. V. Browning of Natick, Rhode Island, and E. A. Robbins of Nashua, N. H., as vice-presidents; John Crowther, secretary-treasurer; with an executive committee comprising, beside Messrs. Bryant, Shepard and Crowther, ex-officio, Vernon L. Stafford, Fall River; D. P. Shove, Somerset; Dr. J. Fred Watson, Nashua, N. H., and P. R. Park, Methuen, Mass. Honorary vice-presidents were designated as follows: Maine, I. F. Clark; New Hampshire, Luther Robbins; Vermont, Sanford Daniels; Massachusetts, C. A. Sanborn; Rhode Island, Samuel Cushman; Connecticut, R. C. Tuttle; New York, Chas. Smith; Illinois, E. L. C. Morse; Missouri, R. F. Smith; Canada, W. R. Walters. It was decided to copyright the Club Standard, at that time the club membership numbered 102; today the membership is nearly 1,200.

No breed or variety of fowls which have petitioned for recognition by the American Poultry Association have met with the opposition which was directed against the Rhode Island Reds. At first they were ridiculed by a very large number of breeders. When they were first exhibited—and this but a few years ago—they were decried loudly and most vigorously by a great many fanciers. They were but mongrels, picked up here and there from the farm yards of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, said their denouncers. They were of no beauty and no use, and it was ridiculous for their promoters to presume to offer them for admission to the Standard as a distinct breed. There was no established blood in their veins. All this and more said these self-appointed guardians of the Standard. The editor of a leading poultry journal, whose columns now teem with Rhode Island Red advertisements, referring to the exhibit of these fowls at the New York show but five years ago, described them as a "motley lot, of all colors," and advised their friends to speedily withdraw them from an offended public gaze.

Today the Rhode Island Red Club is the largest specialty club in America, numbering among its membership prominent breeders in every state in the Union and some in foreign countries. The Rhode Island Red today is extensively bred, is everywhere recognized as one of the most useful and beautiful of standard-bred fowls. As an exhibition fowl it has taken rank with the Plymouth Rocks and Wyandottes. Upon thousands of farms throughout the land the Reds are making money for their owners, while as a fancier's fowl they are very profitable.

And why, we may well ask, has this once denounced, ridiculed and much abused fowl become one of America's most popular and prominent breeds? It is, first, because it is worthy of the place. This thing of the Rhode Island Reds coming into its own is another illustration of the truth of the saying that "truth crushed to earth will rise again." But this is not all. The Rhode Island Red would not have reached the high place they hold today, would still be in the humble place we found it a few years ago, had it not been championed by men who firmly believed in it—men who possessed the ability, the courage, and that determination which balks *not* at opposition. Theirs was indeed a talk before which most of men would have quailed. But C. M. Bryant, Dr. N. B. Aldrich, D. P. Shove, Lester Tompkins, Phillip Caswell, John Crowthers, R. C. Tuttle and their co-workers did not turn from a practically united opposition. *They* knew the merits of the fowls they were supporting. They realized, as well as did the critics of the breed, that their fowls were crude and unfinished so far as color markings were concerned. They proceeded, undaunted, to establish the desired color markings. This done the battle was nearly won, for shape was firmly and satisfactorily established long before. Now they fix the beautiful red color markings. The

great merit of the fowl, its desirable shape and beautiful color markings—the deep rich red—at once won the approval and love of American fanciers and breeders. It was a battle royal, and merit finally won, as it always does, in the end.

The Single Comb Rhode Island Reds were admitted to the Standard in 1904.

In 1905 the Rose Combs were admitted as American Reds. At the 1906 meeting of the American Poultry Association this action was rescinded and these fowls were admitted as Rose Comb Rhode Island Reds.

### BREED CHARACTERISTICS

Standard weights, both varieties: Cock, 8½ pounds; cockerel, 7½ pounds; hen, 6½ pounds; pullet, 5 pounds.

The Rhode Island Red has distinctive and individual shape. This shape should not be confused with that of the Plymouth Rock which it somewhat approaches, but from which it differs materially. In the male the following distinctive character must be prominent:

Back—Broad, long and in the main nearly horizontal; this horizontal effect being modified of slightly rising curves at hackle and lesser tail coverts. Saddle feathers of medium length and abundant.

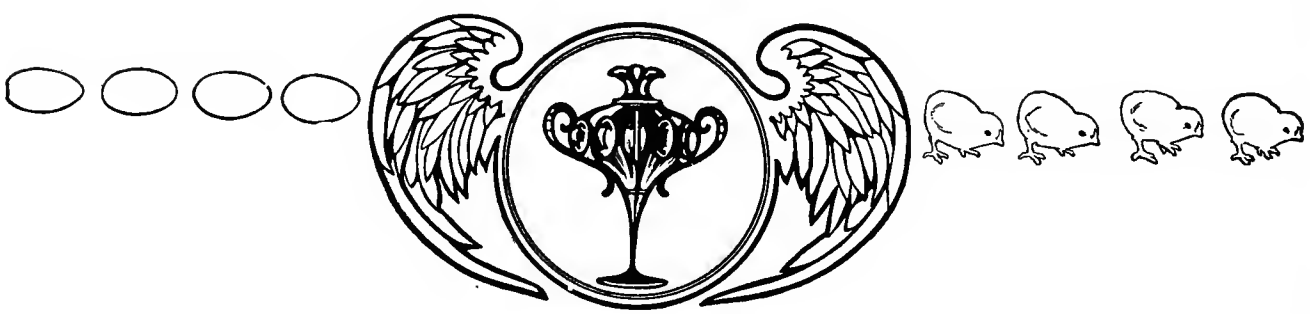
Breast—Broad, deep and carried nearly in a line perpendicular to the base of the beak. *At least it should never be carried anterior to this line.*

Body—Deep, broad and long; keel bone long, straight and extending well forward and back, giving the body an oblong look.

Tail—Of medium length, quite well spread, carried well back, increasing the apparent length of the bird.

Color of the male: General surface rich brilliant red, except where black is desired. Free from shafting, mealy appearance or brassy effect. Depth of color (red) is slightly accentuated on wing bows and back, but the least contrast between these parts and the hackle or breast the better; a harmonious blending is what is desired. The bird should be so brilliant in lustre as to have a glossed appearance. Other things being equal the specimen having the deepest and richest red, salmon, or buff under color shall receive the award. Any smut or white in the undercolor is to be cut hard. The quill of the feather should be red or salmon. White showing on the outside of the body is to be cut harder than white that is out of sight. Black is desired in the under-web of the wing flights. The main tail feathers and two main sickle feathers are to be black or greenish black. The greater tail coverts are mainly black, but as they approach the saddle they may become russet or red. The blending of the red body with the black tail is gradual, thus preventing any sudden contrast. With the saddle parted showing the under color at the base of the tail, the appearance should be red or salmon, not whitish or smoky. The hackle should be free from black although a suspicion of black, that can hardly be found, would not cut the bird much. White in hackle will be cut harder than black. The wing bars should be free from black, and all black in the primaries and secondaries should be out of sight when the wing is folded.

The female carries the same general color—rich red. In the female the lower hackle feathers should end with black tip, making a ticking.



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FIRST PANEL—Reading from left to right. Golden Sebright Bantams, Silver Sebright Bantams, Buff Laced Polish Bantams. SECOND PANEL—Black Cochin Bantams, Partridge Cochin Bantams, Buff Cochin Bantams. THIRD PANEL—White Cochin Bantams, Rose Comb Black Bantams, Rose Comb White Bantams. FOURTH PANEL—White Booted Bantams, Light Brahma Bantams, Dark Brahma Bantams.

# THE LANGSHAN

**No Perplexing Mystery Surrounding the Origin of the Black Langshan, Which Were Given to the World by Aged Chinese Fanciers and to the New World by Major Croad of England—How English Fanciers Departed from the Original Type and Produced the Game—Like Creatiou Now so Popular with Englishmen—Breed Characteristic of the Black and White Langsbans.**

The origin of the Langshan fowl is enveloped in no mystery. There is no romance or glamor surrounding the birth of the orginal Langshan. The "Heathen Chinese," whose contribution to the present day civilization is not extensive, has, all the same, given us one of the most beautiful and valuable of all domestic fowls.

The Black Langshan has not been with us long, only for a brief time, as time is now computed.

From 1880 to 1890 numerous importations of this fowl was made by fanciers of this country, England being the source of supply.

Major Croad has the honor of introducing the Black Langshan to the English fanciers. About 1870 he brought a number of these fowls from China to his English house. They did not cause a sensation. In fact, they were not even kindly received by the English fancier for a time. But they soon found friends, and ere long fanciers were loud in their praise of the strangers from China, and delighted to refer to them as "the Lordly Langshans." Then, too, these fowls had demonstrated their worth as a utility breed.

These original Langshans were as much unlike the English Langshan of today, so far as form and carriage is concerned, as is possible. Within a few years after their introduction into England exhibiting breeders began to breed for a bird higher on legs than were the birds of Major Croad's importation. The friends of the original Langshan—the true Langshan—protested. But their efforts were in vain. Those intent upon breeding the high standing, game-like specimens seemed to have all influential agencies working for them. Judges in the show room favored the latter-day production. And then and there one of the most useful breeds of fowls ever given to man would have been ruined had not Miss Croad, who survived her father, clung to the original type and by much effort kept them pure, not only in her own yards, but in the yards of a number of fanciers.

Today there are two Langshan clubs in England, one championing the cause of the true Langshan, the other vigorously espousing the cause of the game-like so-called Langshans. There is every reason to believe that the fanciers will eventually turn as one man to the true type.

In this country we have put the Langshan a little higher on his legs than we should have done, but this mistake is being corrected. No American fancier would for one moment tolerate the "Black Game" Langshan, so much admired by a majority of the English breeders. Franklin L. Sewell, who made a visit to England in 1905, tells us that in the show rooms there he saw winning Black Langshans standing as high on their legs as our Standard Games.

## THEIR HISTORY HERE

There was a great Black Langshan boom in this country from 1880 to 1890. One of the effects of this Langshan activity was the passing of the Black Cochins. These Black Cochins, neyer very popular, were driven to cover. However, some breeders used them and sent out the stock so produced as Langshans. The fraud was soon detected, however. The Langshan pleased the people and soon took its place among the most popular of breeds. But, sorry to tell, it does not today hold the high place it once did as a fancier's fowl. Every one recognizes the worth and the beauty of a well bred Langshan, but they do not appear in the show room as of old. It is a fact that the Langshan is the best egg producer of all the Asiatic breeds; but as a roaster no other breed can compare with it where a flesh-colored carcass is in demand. The Langshan needs better friends and deserves them.

## THE WHITE LANGSHAN

The White Langshan, introduced here several years after the advent of the Black variety, has not taken a strong hold upon popular favor. The comparatively few breeders who have them are enthusiastic in their praise of the virtues of these white fowls.

L. Lansing Knapp, who for years resided in China, made a careful study of the Langshan while there. In a letter he said:

"The White Langshan is not a distinct breed, as is the Black Langshan. Here and there we found a white fowl with some Langshan characteristics, but it can be safely stated that no distinct breed of this class exists here."

It is not at all unlikely that some one in China moulded these white fowls to the form of the Langshan. In fact this has been done in England and the United States. It is a fact that no record is given where the Black Langshan sported a pure white offspring.

## BREED CHARACTERISTICS

Standard weights: Cock, 10 pounds; cockerel, 8 pounds; hen, 7 pounds; pullet, 6 pounds.

The Langshan has a type, a character, a form all its own. And no more graceful lines and curves are to be found in all fowldom than in those of the Standard Langshan male. The whole being of a Langshan male is grace and dignity. The erect carriage, the curved back, the deep, broad breast, the large and somewhat spreading tail, united in one creature, form a very striking fowl.

In color the Black Langshan is of striking appearance, the green sheen shining like the imprint of the sun's kiss on the magnolia leaf. There must be no brown tinge in the plumage of a Black Langshan. That will not do at all.

In the plumage of the White Langshan no foreign color must show.

No one will make a mistake in accepting the Langshan as a utility fowl. Of large size, wonderful egg producers and unsurpassed as roasters, they are eminently qualified for the farm and town lot. As a fancier's fowl they possess rare merit.

# THE POLISH

**The Polish one of the Oldest of all Recognized Breeds of Poultry—Aldrovandus, an Italian who Wrote in Latin More Than Three Hundred Years Ago, Gave Wood Cuts of a Pair of Patavinian or Paduan Fowls, Which Bear Such Strong Resemblance to our Polish as to Render Their Identity Very Probable—How the Breed Took Hold of the English Fancy.**

The Polish or Poland fowls, among the most beautiful of all domestic poultry, appeal most strongly to the fancier, the utilitarian considering them more of an ornamental breed than a useful one. The modern Polish fowl is indeed a creature of beauty, and withal, possessing merit as an egg-producer. But it is as the fanciers' fowl that the race has been preserved and improved.

The origin of the Polish fowl is not definitely known. As Harrison Weir has said: "They are found in districts as widely apart as Russia, Turkey, Egypt, China and most parts of Europe."

Aldrovandi, writing in the sixteenth century, mentioned fowls with "tufts of feathers on head and throat."

Blumenback, in his book written in 1813, refers to the Polish as a remarkable variety of domestic poultry, "distinguished by a thickly feathered crest on the head and a ball-like protuberance on the forehead."

Mr. Harrison Weir, the eminent English writer and authority, has this to say of the fowls referred to by Bluemenback:

"In England this variety was originally known as the Hamburg, by reason of it being originally imported from that city. It was a breed much fancied in Holland, the Netherlands and in some parts of France, though the English dealers invariably obtained their supplies from or about Hamburg. It was more especially from the south of France that the Messrs. Baker, Chelsea, obtained those fine specimens that in other hands figured so largely at most of the early poultry shows. Philip Castang, another prominent exhibitor of Polish in early days, derived his stock from another source, and many of them, although large in crest, were without beard. From what precise locality they were obtained was kept a profound trade secret, although numerous efforts were made to discover the particular Dutch or Belgian fanciers that produced birds unrivaled by any other country, and always commanding the highest prices in the English market."

Dr. R. Brooks, in "Natural History of Fowls, 1763," referred to a fowl not unlike the White Crested Black Polish.

Bewick, England, 1820, speaks of the "crested cock, of whom there are several varieties, such as the W. C. Black, the B. C. White, the Golden and the Silver."

Boswell, in "The Poultry Yard," 1840, refers to Polish, saying: "This is the fowl we esteem above all others, both for their appearance and usefulness."

While Aldrovandi in the sixteenth century referred to Polish fowls with "feathers on throat," but few of the specimens first exhibited were bearded. In fact the bearded specimens were religiously rejected by what would seem to have been a majority of fanciers. Rev. Saul Dixon in 1850, writing of the Golden Polish, used these words:

"Many of them are disfigured by a muff or beard. No such bird should be allowed the *entree* of the poultry yard, but should be dispatched at once to the fattening coop. The beard is a frightful appendage, and not easily got rid of if once introduced into the poultry yard."

In 1736 Albin, artist, made a drawing of a pair of fowls, "of a peculiar breed, which is brought from Hamburg by our merchants, with a short topknot, a decided beard and actual whiskers—a tuft of black feathers which cover their ears."

Some eminent authorities hold that the Polish originally brought into England were secured in Russia, and that the common crested fowl of Russia is in reality the foundation of the Polish fowls of the world.

Regarding the efforts of certain fanciers to secure recognition of the bearded specimens in England, Mr. Weir writes: "When the poultry shows commenced there were without any doubt two separate and distinct varieties of Polish, both having the singular formation of the skull. The black, with the white crest, never had a beard, while among the entire blacks there were some with beard and some without; so also among the golden and silver-spangled, the white, the blue and the fawn-colored. This being the case, and some of the fanciers preferring with, and some, like Mr. Dixon, without, there appeared to be nothing for it but to have separate classes for each. The contention was long and wordy, and somewhat militated against the advancement of the breed in the estimation of the public. The Messrs. Baker, who imported many of their best birds from Marseilles, contended that the silver and golden spangled should be bearded, but not the black with the white crowns. Mr. Perkyns Jones, also a Polish fancier, was on the other side. The controversy dragged on, but as the bearded birds also had the best crests the beardless varieties ceased to be shown, and it is now doubtful if any can be found in England, or elsewhere for that matter. It does seem a little strange that the blacks with white crests should be allowed to continue beardless while all the other colors must have ruffs, beards and whiskers, as well as large and full crowns. But then poultry fanciers give singular names to breeds, and are also a little odd in their likes and dislikes. One point of interest to be noted is that, from the small number of entries shown, it is evident that sixty years ago the breed was not only scarce but in the hands of a very few fanciers."

The American Standard of Perfection recognizes eight varieties of Polish, as follows: White Crested Black, Golden Bearded, Silver Bearded, White Bearded, Buff Laced, Non-bearded Golden Silver and White.

Polish fowls were brought to the United States as early as 1840. From 1860 to 1870 they were in great demand and were largely bred. But fanciers seemed to put size of crest above all other points in their Polish, and the breed lost in public favor. In fact the breed was nearly ruined, having lost strength, vitality and breeding power. About 1880 the Polish fanciers awoke to the seriousness of the situation, adopted new methods and to-day the Polish fowl is bred along lines of both beauty and utility. They are now large classes in the American shows and are popular throughout the land. To-day, as in the past, the White Crested Blacks are shown in the largest numbers and are more extensively bred than any other member of the Polish family.

### BREED CHARACTERISTICS

Polish are medium sized fowls. As egg producers they have a good record. They are a graceful and attractive fowl, their large, well-formed crests giving them an individuality all their own.

White Crested Black plumage color: Solid black with a metallic, greenish luster, free from purple bars. The crest should be pure white, although a narrow band of black feathers at base of feathers in front is allowable.

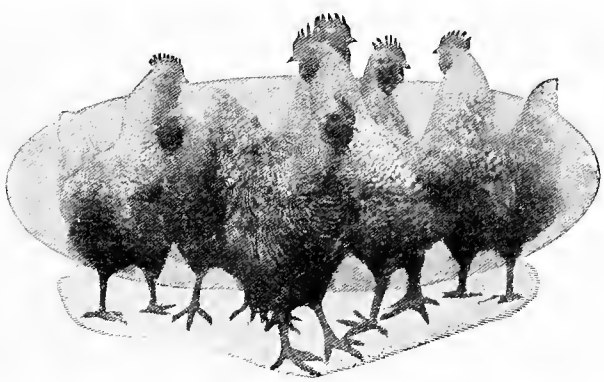
Bearded Golden Polish plumage color: A ground work of golden bay. In neck each feather laced with black. In back golden bay, each feather ending with black, approaching a letter V in shape. Breast golden bay. Tail, golden bay, each feather laced with black. Under color, dark slate.

Bearded Silver Polish plumage color: Same as in Bearded Golden Polish, substituting white for bay, or golden bay.

Bearded White Polish plumage color: Pure white throughout, including crest.

Non-bearded Golden, Silver and White Polish plumage color: Same as bearded varieties in every respect.

Buff Laced Polish plumage color: Rich buff, with a narrow, white lacing.



# GAMES AND GAME BANTAMS

**The Game Fowl Bred and Admired by the Ancient Greeks and Romans for their Pugnacious Propensities and Indomitable Courage—Known to have Existed as a Distinct Breed in the Earliest Civilization - The Modern Exhibition Game the Result of Earnest and Skillful Labor by English Fanciers – But Little of the Character of the Original Game Retained.**

The American Standard of Perfection recognizes the following breeds and varieties of game fowls: Black Breasted Red, Brown Red, Golden Duckwing, Silver Duckwing, Birchen, Red Pyle, White and Black; also the following Oriental classes: Cornish Indians, White Indians, Black Sumatras and Malays.

The game fowl is as old as time, and has been found intact by the civilization of all ages. Saunders says that among the Greeks and Romans the pugnacious propensities and indomitable courage of animals, whether quadrupeds or birds, never failed to attract attention. The Romans, indeed, whose passion for the combats of the amphitheater was notorious, collected not only the ferocious tenants of the Libyan desert for the gratification of their blood-thirsty disposition, but bred up dogs for the arena, and even sent authorized officers to Britain for the purpose of securing those terrible mastiffs for which the island was so celebrated, and it cannot be supposed that the combativeness of the game cock would be overlooked. Cock fighting was as much in vogue in Greece and Italy in ancient days as it is at present in India, China, Malacca and the adjoining islands of Sumatra and Java. The Greeks produced several renowned breeds of game fowls, as did Media and Persia. On Caesar's arrival in England he found the fowls domesticated, but these as well as the hare were forbidden as food and were bred only for the fancy. But it is probable that we owe the game fowl to the Romans, for when Britain was a Roman colony it is not to be supposed that the Roman residents would give up the sports to which they were so passionately addicted; and as they sent British fighting dogs to Rome, so from Rome they undoubtedly imported their fighting cocks.

The modern game fowl—that is, the exhibition game, recognized by the American and English fanciers and authorities—is as far removed from the original game fowl as it has been possible for man to take them. No other breed of domestic poultry has been so skillfully remodeled as has the game. The original game was built entirely upon fighting lines. He had not the tall, attenuated form of the modern game. He had come down intact, with his courage and vigor as an heirloom, from the time of the Romans; but with the advent of the poultry shows in England in 1851 the remodeling of the game began.

The original game fowls were of many colors and not uniform as to size, comb and carriage. It was not unnatural that the fanciers should desire to construct with the best of this material a pleasing game fowl, as they saw such a fowl in their mind's eye. And so it was that the shape, carriage and whole being of the old game were changed and the modern exhibition game given to the fancy.

Referring to the new game, Saunders has said: "If fowls were not wanted for the table or for egg production, and if perfect symmetry, beautiful color and daring were all that was required of them, the fancier might possess the game fowl and rest content."

English fanciers continue to lead the world in the production of show specimens of exhibition games. In the interchange among fanciers the game brings the highest price. In this respect they have always been leaders.

## BREED CHARACTERISTICS

The exhibition game has a style and beauty all its own. High station, shape and carriage of tail and wings are most important, and are given the greatest consideration by the most skillful breeders. A game low on its legs is a thing to be shunned. Harrison Weir, describing the ideal English production, says:

"Head, long and narrow; beak, straight, with a light curve and finely yet strongly set on the head; the eye large, full and fiery; the neck long and thin, yet strong shoulders; wide in the body, deep, but rounded, and flesh on breast full and hard, with a slight tendency to length; thighs, long and thin, or slender, slightly bent in; the legs long, feet long and well to the ground, spur set on rather low; tail, narrow, small and carried low, the whole of the feathers short, hard, almost like scales, yet moist or cool to the touch; general carriage somewhat of a tendency to be upright."

The Black Breasted Red is the most popular of all Standard games, both in America and England. The plumage of this fowl is most pleasing. It is a mingling of black, orange and red. Body and stern are black. Back red, saddle light orange. This refers to the male. The female in color is a mixture of black, brown and golden brown.

In color the Brown Red is black in stern and body, the breast being black, evenly laced with lemon. Tail black, back lemon. The female is colored upon practically the same lines—less brilliant, of course.

The Golden Duckwing is one of the most beautiful of games. His body and stern are black, with a beautiful golden-colored back, breast glossy black. Shoulders and wing fronts are black; wing-bows, golden. The female is a mingling of black, silver gray and deep salmon.

The Silver Duckwing is the same as the Golden, substituting silver coloring for that of golden.

The body and stern of the Birchen games are black, neck silvery white, back white, shoulders black, wing-bows silvery white. The female is garbed in colors of brown, black and silvery white.

White games—plumage pure white throughout.

Black games—plumage throughout black, with metallic luster.

## GAME BANTAMS

Game Bantams are in their entirety the product of the fancier. In shape, color and carriage they are the same as the Standard games, from which they were derived—sim-

ply miniature games. Dwarf fowl have been known throughout all ages. As to the origin of Game Bantams, Thos. F. McGrew in the Poultry Book says:

"Several writers have several theories about the origin of the Game Bantams. The majority of fanciers, however, agree with Mr. Entwisle, who gave John Crossland, of England, the credit of having produced the first Game Bantams of quality. Mowbray, in his early writings, states that there has just been obtained a new variety of Bantams, extremely small and smooth-legged, as are the game fowls. The records as early as 1850 describe beautiful game Bantams of very small size, weight considered, but no mention is made of their possible origin."

Standard weight of Game Bantams — Cock, 22 ounces; cockerel, 20 ounces; hen, 20 ounces; pullet, 18 ounces.

The Black Breasted Red is the most popular of all Game Bantams.

## ORIENTAL GAMES

In this class the American Standard of Perfection recognizes the following breed and varieties: Cornish Indians, White Indians, Sumatras, Malays and Malay Bantams.

Clark, accepted authority, says that "the Azell are the only proper and rightful owners of the well-earned appellation Indian Game." In this he states a fact that is self-evident. The Cornish Game of the American Standard should never have been termed "Indian Game." The American Standard of Perfection says that the "Cornish Indian was produced by a cross of the Azell (Asell) and Black Breasted Red Game, Sumatras blood being introduced into some strains later." We do not know where the writer secured his authority for that statement. As Clark says, "The trouble about this is that a melange of five-pound birds could hardly turn out ten-pound offspring. The sum of it all is that if you mate a laced Azell cock with hens of almost any large sized smooth-legged race, you will be able to pick some Cornish Games out of the progeny." There is no record to show that the blood of the Sumatras Games was ever used in the make-up of any strain of Cornish Indians. They are evidently a cross of the Malay and Azell and in some cases of other India games and the old-time pit game and the Black Breasted Red Game. They were first exhibited at the Crystal Palace Show in London, England, in 1858. Mr. J. Lloyd, an English writer, thus described these fowls shown at that time and place:

"Their peculiarities consist in the tail being set on in a horizontal position in a similar manner to the pheasant's, so that the saddle hackles fall over and mix with it. The feathers on the hen have all the appearances of having been brushed up so as to meet the crown. The comb is something similar to the pea of the Brahma, but more elevated behind. In color the cock is a mixture of green-black and dark red; the hen is rather of a browner tint; both have a strong metallic luster."

It will be seen that the Cornish Indian first exhibited was very unlike the fowl of that breed today. No mention was made by Mr. Lloyd as to lacing, without which the present Cornish Indian would be something other than itself. Malay build has since been introduced, and now the Cornish Indian and the Malay are much alike in shape. Perhaps no other breed of fowl, save the Cochins, ever had such a boom in America as did these so-called Indian Games. The boom came on about 1885. Fabulous prices were paid for specimens of the breed. The fanciers went "Indian mad," and the introducers of the breed, Sharp Bros., of New York, reaped a very profitable harvest. These fowls were boomed as the most profitable and best table fowl on earth. However, they proved to be in no way superior to the American Plymouth Rocks and Wyandottes—in fact, not their equal—while as egg producers they were not at all satisfactory. In a word, the Cornish Indians soon took the place their merit entitled them to hold. Since then they have been improved both in beauty and as a market fowl and egg producer, and are fairly good classes in the leading shows.

The White Indian Game is a cross between the White Game and the Malay, alias Injee.

The Standard weight of Cornish and White Indians are—Cock, 9 pounds; cockerel, 7½ pounds; hen, 6½ pounds; pullet, 5½ pounds.

These fowls have short, thick legs, deep and broad breast, great width at shoulders. Their carriage is upright, the shoulders being carried high and the stern low.

In color the Cornish male is a bird of striking colors. Body and sterns are black; back glossy, greenish-black and dark red intermixed, the black predominating; breast black; wings black, except that primaries and secondaries are edged with bay.

The back, breast, body, wing-bows, wing-coverts and tail-coverts of the female are colored bay, approaching mahogany, each feather having two pencilings of lustrous black, the penciling following contour of web of feather.

The White Indians are pure white throughout.

## THE BLACK SUMATRA

The Black Sumatras are natives of Sumatra. This is a beautiful fowl, with its graceful form, very rich greenish-black plumage throughout, and its long, drooping tail, with abundance of sickle feathers and coverts, which should be long and flowing. Comb, pea. The Black Sumatra is very rare, but few comparatively being bred in England or America. Just now a new interest is being awakened in this beautiful and useful fowl, and we expect to see them take a prominent place in the show room in America very soon.

## THE MALAY

The Malay is originally of India. Rees' Cyclopaedia, 1810, showed a pair of these fowls as then bred in England. They were a tall, large, tight-feathered fowl. Sykes in his "Memoir of Birds" says he has reason to believe that the Malay is not a native of India, but was there introduced by the Mussulmans from Sumatra or Java. The Standard weights of the Malay are: Cock, 9 pounds; cockerel, 7 pounds; hen, 7 pounds; pullet, 6 pounds. Standard heights (the only breed having Standard height): Cock, 26 inches; cockerel, 18 inches; hen, 18 inches; pullet, 15 inches. In build and form the Malay closely resembles the Cornish Indian. In all it is a massive fowl. In plumage color it is a mixture of black and red, both male and female.

The Malay bantams are the same in shape and color as the Standard Malays. Standard weight: Cock, 26 ounces; cockerel, 24 ounces; hen, 24 ounces; pullet, 22 ounces.

# ORNAMENTAL BANTAMS

**The Ornamental Bantams Represent the Highest Type of the Fanciers' Skill in Plumage Color Production Ever Given to the World—The Sebright Bantams the Most Beautifully Garbed of all Domestic Fowls—Originated by Sir John Sebright, of England, Nearly One Hundred Years Ago—American Fanciers Prominent in This Work.**

The following varieties of ornamental Bantams are recognized by the American Standard of Perfection:

Sebrights, golden and silver.

Rose-Comb, black and white.

Booted White.

Brahmas, light and dark.

Cochins, buff, partridge, white and black.

Japanese, black-tailed, white, black.

Polish, bearded white, buff laced, non-bearded.

Standard weights are as follows, in ounces:

Sebrights—Cock, 26; cockerel, 22; hen, 22; pullet, 20. Disqualifying weights: Cock, 30; cockerel, 26; hen, 26; pullet, 24.

Rose-Combs—Cock, 26; cockerel, 22; hen, 22; pullet, 20. Disqualifying weights: Cock, 28; cockerel, 24; hen, 24; pullet, 22.

Booted—Cock, 26; cockerel, 22; hen, 22; pullet, 20. Disqualifying weights: Cock, 28; cockerel, 24; hen, 24; pullet, 22.

Brahmas—Cock, 30; cockerel, 26; hen, 26; pullet, 24. Disqualifying weights: Cock, 34; cockerel, 30; hen, 30; pullet, 28.

Cochins—Cock, 30; cockerel, 26; hen, 26; pullet, 24. Disqualifying weights: Cock, 34, cockerel, 30; hen, 30; pullet, 28.

Japanese—Cock, 26; cockerel, 22; hen, 22; pullet, 20. No disqualifying weights.

Polish—Cock, 26; cockerel, 22; hen, 22; pullet, 20. No disqualifying weights.

It can be said in all truth that the most beautiful, exquisite, delicate and refined plumage color production given to any fowl is that in which the fancier has garbed the Silver and Golden Sebrights. Sir John Sebright, of England, originated these varieties of Bantams. Mr. Harrison Weir, in writing of the work of this eminent fancier, says:

"It is seventy years (now more than eighty years—T. F. R.) since Sir John Sebright conceived the idea of producing a bantam, hen-tailed, without the pointed hackle, back or saddle feathers, which should have instead those of an obovate form, gold color, with a complete black lacing throughout."

The following from the Poultry Chronicle, London, 1854, tells the story:

"The last object that Sir John Sebright aimed at was to improve the Bantam to a clear, blue-legged (shanked), penciled (laced) bird, with proud, erect carriage. To effect this Sir John about five and forty years ago obtained a buff-colored Bantam hen (possibly that then known as the Nankin) at Norwich. She was very small, indeed, with clear slate-colored legs. On the same journey he purchased a cockerel rather inclined to red in color, destitute of sickle feathers, with a hen-like hackle (this bird, an aged friend of mine told me, was a henny game, for he knew the person from whom it was bought; this, no doubt, had the permanent effect of making the Sebright hen-tailed), and (at Watford) a small hen resembling a Golden Hamburg. After this by drafting for five or six years he gained the very penciled (laced) feathers he so anxiously sought by in-and-in breeding for about twenty years. He afterward had a white cockerel from the zoological gardens from which he developed the Silvers."

Color of male and female Golden Sebright bantam: Surface throughout rich golden yellow, each feather evenly and distinctly laced all around with a narrow edging of glossy black. Undercolor, dark slate; comb, rose.

Color of male and female Silver Sebright Bantam: Surface throughout silvery white, each feather evenly and distinctly laced all around with a narrow edging of glossy black. Undercolor, slate; comb rose.

The Rose-comb Black Bantam is a Black Hamburg in miniature—in fact, they are identical with the Standard Hamburg except in size.

The Rose-comb White Bantam are White Hamburgs in miniature.

The Booted White Bantam is one of the oldest breeds of domestic fowls. It was originated in England. The wings are long and extend out behind the body. Both shanks and toes are heavily feathered, the hock plumage full and extended; comb, single; plumage color, white throughout.

The Light Brahma Bantam was originated by Mr. Entwisle, of England. They are a Light Brahma in miniature. Mr. D. Lincoln Orr, of New York, the foremost breeder and most successful exhibitor of these fowls in America, voices the sentiment of the whole fraternity when he says that the Standard weights of the breed are too low, and that it is practically impossible for the most skilful breeder to produce stock the majority of which will be within Standard weight, and at the same time possess the required vigor of the breed. Mr. Orr and his co-workers will ask the American Poultry Association to raise the Standard weights on cock and hen, at least.

Dark Brahma Bantams were produced in America and England, the breeders on either side working independently. Later Mr. Entwisle, of England, and Mr. Newton Adams, of America, engaged in a united effort to improve the stock by crossing their two strains. The world's best specimens carry the blood of these two strains.

The original Buff Cochin Bantams came from China about 1860 and were known as Pekin Bantams. They were a deep dark shade of cinnamon, the male being reddish-brown. The shanks were green. By constant care in selection the race was improved until now the Buff Cochin Bantam is a duplicate in color and form of the Standard Buff Cochin.

The Partridge Cochin Bantams were given to the world by Mr. Entwisle, of England, the first production being the result of a cross between the black and buff varieties. **T. F.**

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FIRST PANEL—Reading from left to right. White Holland Turkeys, Bronze Turkeys, Buff Turkeys. SECOND PANEL—Narragansett Turkeys, Slate Turkeys, Black Turkeys. THIRD PANEL—Embden Geese, Toulouse Geese, African Geese. FOURTH PANEL—Egyptian Geese, Wild or Canadian Geese, Chinese Geese.

McGrew, of New York, in 1895 imported a pair from England. He used them in connection with small Standard-bred Cochins of the Partridge variety, and thus laid the foundation upon which rests the best specimens of the variety now found in America—or the world, for that matter.

The Black Cochin Bantams also originated in England. American fanciers took hold of them and by judicious mating, often with Standard Black Cochins of small size, soon established the variety as to size and shape and coloring.

A. P. Groves, of Pennsylvania, claims to have originated the White Cochin Bantams. They were sports of his Standard-bred White Cochins. They are now well established.

We would naturally expect the Japanese Bantams to have a marked individuality. This is the case. They are small; the body and tail are upright and carried so as to touch one another; The wings are large and carried low; the legs are very short.

Wings and tail of the black-tailed variety are black and white; body white. The White Japanese Bantam is white in plumage color throughout; the black variety is solid black.

The Buff Laced Polish Bantam carries the same plumage color as does the Standard Buff Laced Polish fowl.

The non-bearded varieties are the same as the Standard varieties, but carry no beard.

## DOMINIQUES AND JAVAS

The Rose-comb American Dominique is the oldest distinctively American race of fowls. When the Dominique and Java blood was united, and as a result the Barred Plymouth Rock produced, the offspring took the place formerly held in popular esteem by the parents, and in a few years this parent stock became very scarce.

It is held by some writers that the American Dominique, which is known to have existed in America since civilization began, is the result of a cross between Hamburgs and stock held commonly by the early settlers in New York, the Hamburgs having been brought here by the Dutch. This is a reasonable theory, for the Dominique has the rose comb of the Hamburg, and the short shanks and long, flowing tail as well.

The Dominique has the plumage of the Barred Plymouth Rock. Standard weights: Cock, 8½ pounds; cockerel, 7½ pounds; hen, 6½ pounds; pullet, 5½ pounds.

A few breeders have kept this noble old race intact. They are good table fowls, and as egg-producers the equal of the Plymouth Rocks.

## THE JAVAS

The controversy as to the origin of the Black Java still remains unclosed. Mr. J. Y. Bicknell, for years a breeder of this fowl and who is conceded to be authority in all pertaining to the breed, has very decided opinion as to the origin of these fowls. In 1882 he wrote as follows to the American Farmer:

"About thirty years ago (1852) a family living in Missouri came into possession of three eggs from the yard of a celebrated doctor, who delighted in the ownership of a few fine fowls called Javas. The doctor would neither sell the progeny nor consent to having it grace the yards of his neighbors. His coachman 'borrowed' the three eggs above mentioned, and from them the American Javas have all descended. They were first brought into Dutchess county, New York, about twenty-five years ago (1857) by a family removing thence from Missouri. About fifteen years since (1867) they were brought into Orleans county, New York, by the same family, where the birds have been bred in large numbers ever since."

Most breeds of fowls are made of crosses. When one type is decided upon we must keep clear of foreign blood to retain that type. All crossing, whether by one or more breeders, must be from the original stock. This is just what has been done with the Black Javas. Their manifest vitality strikes us forcibly at first sight. Until three or four years since they have been bred in comparative obscurity, yet have been noted for their large size, quick maturity, hardiness and beauty. Their color is a rich, lustrous black, with a beautiful green shading; comb, single; shanks, black, approaching willow, free from feathers; the bottom of the feet is always yellow, corresponding with the color of the skin.

At the outset let it be understood that Javas are not of foreign origin, but are an American fowl and deserve an American name. Our American Javas have characteristics of their own, differing from any other known breed, clearly demonstrating that they are indebted to no other recognized variety for their existence.

The Mottled Java is a counterpart of the Black, except that its plumage is mottled white and black. It is the result of a cross of a Black Java and a large white hen, the cross having been made in 1872.

Standard weights of the Javas: Cock, 9½ pounds; cockerel, 8 pounds; hen, 7½ pounds; pullet, 6½ pounds.

## SILKIES, SULTANS AND FRIZZLES

The Silkies are the novelties in poultrydom. They are unlike any other breed or race of fowls. Their plumage is of a peculiar formation, being webless and of a silky texture. In build they are short, with feathered legs and broad backs. The crest should be compact and full, falling backward behind comb. The comb is strawberry in form, nearly round, having a lumpy appearance. Tail small, main feathers having a silky fringe-like appearance. Face and comb color, dark purple. Wattles and earlobes, purple or liver color. Plumage, pure white.

Silkies were originally found in China, Japan and India.

The Sultan fowl is a native of Turkey. In 1877 Geo. O. Brown, of Maryland, received a number of these fowls direct from Turkey. These were the first of the kind brought to America. Describing these specimens Mr. Brown says:

"The two cocks were stylish, broad-breasted and broad-backed. They had large, globular crests, composed of short, broad feathers, and the hens had the same. The tails were large, the legs and the toes being heavily feathered. They had prominent hock feathering."

The Sultan in appearance is a Booted Polish. Their full crest, muff and beard, together with vulture-hocks and profuse shank and toe feathering, gives them a peculiar and odd appearance.

Of late years some breeders have resorted to the use of Polish blood, it being most difficult to secure fresh blood of the pure Sultans.

Another very odd and peculiar appearing fowl are the Frizzles. The feathers curve backward and upward at the ends. In plumage color the Standard of Perfection allows black, white, red or bay, but the color in a specimen must be solid. The comb must be single.

The Frizzles can boast of no royal blood. They have been known by all ages of which we have account. But few, comparatively, are bred in this country. They are about the size of the Wyandotte, and are excellent egg producers and market fowls.

# THE TURKEY

**The Turkey, a Native of America, Now Bred and Highly Prized by the People of all Civilized Countries—Taken to England in an Early Day, and From There Distributed to Nearly all Countries and Climes—The Bronze Variety the Most Popular at Home and Abroad—The White Holland Said to be a Native of Holland—The Breed in Various Colors Produced by American Fanciers.**

The Bronze turkey of the American Standard of Perfection is the acknowledged king of all poultry. The turkey is evidently of American origin. The wild turkey was found in abundance by the pioneers in the eastern, southern and western sections of the United States. They existed also in great numbers in Mexico long before this time. It is evident that the turkey was introduced into Europe from America. The following historical review of this matter was written for the American Poultry Journal by Rev. C. E. Petersen, October, 1905, and covers the ground completely:

"At what time the domestic fowl was first introduced into England is unknown, but there is a tradition in Cornwall that it was originally brought to that part of the coast by the Phenicians when they came to traffic for tin and copper with the natives, previous to the Roman invasion; and to this day, in some parts of the country, it is called the Persian bird, but why this latter does not appear; and further, it is especially noted by Cesar ('De Bello') that the cock, the goose and the hare were among, if not the whole of, the domestic animals of the ancient Britons, and kept by them for pleasure only before his invasion of the country, but that soon after their scruples in this direction disappeared.

"However that may be, it is certain the Romans brought with them 'the fighting cock,' both to the south and the west of England; clear proof of which are the bones, nay, the very metal spurs used in their contests, that have been found both in Surrey and Cornwall.

"One metal spur was dug up in Southwark, and a pair in an old Roman wall in the latter county, besides others that unfortunately were not preserved or sufficiently noted.

"That these same ancients were not acquainted with the turkey goes far to settle the somewhat disputed question, whether the turkey is a native of this country or not, being now taken for granted by all naturalists and historians that the new world was its birthplace, and from there was introduced into the old world.

"It is interesting to note the mention of these birds in the writings of the old historians, a few of which follow:

"The first author in whom any mention is made of the turkey is Oviedo, who wrote about the year 1525. He has described them minutely with that curiosity and attention which new objects generally excite; and as he was acquainted with no name for these birds, till then unknown to the Europeans, he gave them that which he thought best suited to them. He calls them a kind of peacock, and he relates that even then, at this early date, on account of their utility, and the excellent taste of their flesh, they were not only reared and domesticated by the Europeans in New Spain, where they were first found, but that they were carried also to New Castile and to the West India Islands.

"Lopez de Gomara, whose book was printed in 1553, makes use of gallopavo; and says that the fowl resembles in shape the peacock and the domestic cock; and that of all the fowls in New Spain its flesh is the most delicious.

"In the year 1584 wild turkeys were found in Virginia, and Rene de Laudonniere found them on his landing in North America in 1564. Fernandez also reckons them among the birds of Mexico; and takes notice of the difference between those that were wild and those which had been tamed. Pedro de Ciesa saw them on the isthmus of Darien, and Dampier in Yucatan; beside the testimony of many other travelers, which is hardly worth while noting, shows the early date of its domestication.

"An account by Smyth deserves notice; he visited Pennsylvania in 1784, and says:

" 'The wild turkeys run about here in the woods. Their wildness excepted, they are in nothing different from ours, but in being generally larger, and in having redder flesh, which is, however, superior in taste. When anyone finds their eggs in the woods and places them under a tame hen to be hatched, the young, for the most part, become tame also; but when they grow up they make their escape. On this account people cut their wings before they are a year old. These wild turkeys when tamed are much more mischievous than those from domesticated birds.'

"Smyth assures us that wild turkeys are so abundant in the uncultivated country back of Virginia and the southern provinces that they may be found in flocks of more than 5,000.

"The earliest account of them in Italy is contained in an ordinance issued by the magistrates of Venice, in 1557, for repressing luxury, and in which those tables at which they were allowed are particularized. About the year 1570 Bartolomeo Scappi, cook to Pope Pius V, gave in his book on cookery several receipts for dressing these expensive and much esteemed fowls.

"That they were scarce at this period appears from its being remarked that the first turkeys brought to Bologna were some that had been given as a present to the family of Buonocompagni, from which Gregory XII, who at that time filled the papal chair, was descended.

"That these fowls were not known in England in the beginning of the sixteenth century, is very probable; as they are not mentioned in the particular description of a grand entertainment given by Archbishop Nevil; nor in the regulations made by Henry VIII, respecting his household, in which all fowls used in the royal kitchen are named.

"They were, however, introduced into that country about the above period; some say in the year 1524; others in 1530, and some in 1532.

"We know, at any rate, they were served up at a great banquet in 1555; and about 1585 they were commonly reckoned among the number of delicate dishes, and we have the

following from 'Tusser's Five Hundred Points of Husbandry,' published at that date:

" 'Beefe, mutton and porke, shred pies of the best,
Pig, veale, goose and capon and turkey well dressed;
Cheese, apples and nuts, jolie carols to heare,
As then in the countrie, is counted good cheare.'

"There was another edition of Tusser published in 1557, but no mention is made there of the turkey, so it is positively sure that some time between these two dates the turkey was introduced into England from the colonies.

"According to the account of some writers, turkeys must have been known much earlier in France; but on strict examination no proof of this can be found. The earliest period assigned for their introduction into that country is given by Beguillet, who confidently asserts that they were brought to Dijon under the reign of Phillip the Bold, about the year 1385.

"Had this French author quoted his authority, we might have discovered what gave rise to his mistake; but as he does not, one cannot but help to think that the whole account is a fiction of his own which was not a very strange proceeding in those times.

"De la Mar also is in error when he relates that the first turkeys in France were those which Jaques Caur, the well-known treasurer to Charles VII, brought with him from the Levant, and kept on his estates in Gatinois, after he had received the king's permission to return to the kingdom.

"This Caur, however, who was banished in 1450, never returned, but died in the island of Chio in the year 1456.

"Equally false is the account given by Bouche in his 'History of Provence,' that Rene, or Renatus, King of Naples and Duke of Anjou, first brought turkeys into the kingdom and reared them in abundance at Rosset. This author gives as authority the oral tradition, which certainly cannot be put in competition with testimony of a more authentic nature.

"Another Bouche, who wrote later (1785) a 'History of Provence,' and who has collected many things which do honor to Renatus, makes no mention of this service, though he could not be ignorant of what had been before related by his namesake.

"Had these fowls been known so early as the time of that monarch, who died in 1480, it is impossible that they could have been so scarce in France as they really were about 100 years after. The assertion oft repeated, but never proved, that they were first brought to France by Phillip, the Chabot admirable under Francis I, is much more probable.

"Chabot died in 1543; and what Scaliger says, that in 1540 some turkeys were still remaining in France, may be considered as alluding to the above circumstance.

"This much, however, is certain—that Gyllius, who died in 1555, gave the first scientific description of them, which had been given shortly before his death, and which were made use of by both Gesner and Aldrovandus in their work on 'Ornithology.' The same year the first figure of them was published by Bellon.

"About the same time they were described also by La Bruyere-Champier, who expressly remarks that they had a few years before been brought to France from the Indian islands discovered by the Portuguese and the Spaniards.

"How, then, could Barrington assert that this Frenchman meant the East and not the West Indies? They must, however, have been a long time scarce in France; for, in the year 1566, when Charles IX passed through Amiens, the magistrates did not disdain to send him, among other presents, twelve turkeys. This information seems to agree with the account often quoted, that the first turkeys were served up, as a great rarity, at the wedding dinner of that monarch in the year 1570; but it seems the breed of these fowls was not very common under Charles IX, for they are not named in the ordinances of 1563 and 1567, in which all other fowls are mentioned.

"In the year 1603 Henry IV caused higglers to be punished who carried away turkeys from the country villages without paying for them, under the pretense that they were for the use of the queen.

"As these American fowls must have been carried to Germany through other lands, we cannot expect to find them in that country at an earlier period.

"Gesner, who published his work in 1555 on 'Ornithology,' seems not to have seen them.

"We are, however, assured by several authors, such as B. Heresback Colerus and others, that turkeys were brought to Germany so early as 1530; and at the same year carried to Bohemia and Selesia.

"Respecting the northern countries, by the authority of Pontoppidan, they had been in Denmark 200 years before his time (1698).

"As these fowls are found at present in Asia and Africa, it may be worth while to briefly mention that as much proof can be given that they were not known there until introduced by Europeans."

The Standard weights of Bronze Turkeys are: Adult cock, 36 pounds; yearling cock, 33 pounds; cockerel, 25 pounds; hen, 20 pounds; pullet, 16 pounds.

The disqualifying weights are: Adult cock weighing less than 30 pounds; yearling cock, less than 25 pounds; cockerel, less than 18 pounds; hen, less than 14 pounds; pullet, less than 10 pounds.

Color of body black, beautifully shaded with bronze. Fluff, black, each feather ending in a wide black, bronze band extending across the feather, with a narrow edging of white. Male's wing bows a brilliant bronze with greenish luster. Each primary feather must be evenly and distinctly barred across with parallel bars of black and white throughout the length of feather.

### WHITE HOLLAND TURKEY

The White Holland turkey is said to be a native of Holland. This breed of turkeys as described by the American Standard of Perfection is far and away a larger and much more beautiful fowl than the common white turkey of Holland.

The Standard weights are: Cock, 26 pounds; cockerel, 18 pounds; hen, 16 pounds; pullet, 12 pounds. Disqualifying weights: Cock weighing less than 20 pounds; hen, less than 12 pounds.

The plumage is pure white throughout. Shanks and toes, white or pinkish white. Eyes, hazel. Head, rich red, changeable to bluish white.

### THE NARRAGANSETT TURKEY

The Narragansett turkey is a native of Rhode Island and Connecticut. They are next to the Bronze variety in size, the Standard weights being: Cock, 30 pounds; cockerel, 20 pounds; hen, 18 pounds; pullet, 12 pounds. Disqualifying weights: Cock, less than 22 pounds; hen, less than 14 pounds. In plumage color this turkey is black, each feather ending in a broad, light steel-gray band edged with black.

### THE BUFF TURKEY

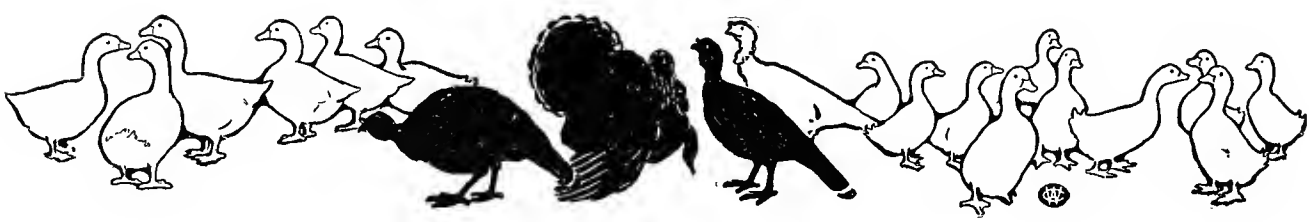
This variety is of American origin, having been brought out but a few years ago. Plumage color, pure buff, the wings being a very light shade of buff. Standard weight: Cock, 27 pounds; cockerel, 18 pounds; hen, 18 pounds; pullet, 12 pounds. Disqualifying weights: Cock, less than 18 pounds; hen, less than 12 pounds.

### THE SLATE TURKEY

Also of American origin. These fowls when right are nearly blue in plumage color, the shade resembling that of the Blue Andalusian, the female being much lighter in color than the male. The Standard calls for a plumage color slaty or ashy-blue, sometimes dotted with black. The Standard weights are: Cock, 27 pounds; cockerel, 18 pounds; hen, 18 pounds; pullet, 12 pounds. Disqualifying weights: Cock, less than 18 pounds; hen, less than 12 pounds.

### THE BLACK TURKEY

The Black turkey is a native of America. In plumage color they are a lustrous black throughout. Standard weights: Cock, 27 pounds; cockerel, 18 pounds; hen, 18 pounds; pullet, 12 pounds. Disqualifying weight: Cock, less than 20 pounds; hen, less than 12 pounds.



# THE GOOSE

**No Authentic Account as to the Time the Goose has been Domesticated—Two Breeds Mentioned by Belon in 1555, but no Description as to Color or Breed Characteristics is Given—America, England and France Each has Produced a Distinctive Breed of Geese—Bred the World Over and Highly Prized.**

We have no authentic record as to the length of time the goose has been domesticated. Pierre Belon in 1555 speaks of two breeds of domestic geese, but does not describe them. The Greeks of early days highly prized the goose for the delicacy of its flesh. Daniel in his "Rural Sports," 1810, says that "vast flocks of geese are driven annually to London from distant countries to supply the market. In 1783 one drove of about 9,000 passed through Chelmesford. Other flocks of two and three thousand are common."

### TOULOUSE GEESE

The Toulouse are the most popular of all geese, both in this country and Europe. The Standard weights are: Gander, 20 pounds; young gander, 18 pounds; goose, 18 pounds; young goose, 15 pounds.

The Toulouse goose is a native of France, deriving its name from the town of Toulouse, where great numbers of these geese are annually marketed.

In color the Toulouse is gray throughout. For years it was almost impossible to get these geese to Standard weights; but this has been attained. They are not as greatly shown as in England, where more attention is given to water fowls than in America.

### EMBDEN GEESE

The Embden is a native of Germany. In an early day the city of Embden was the central market for the geese of a very large district; hence the name of the breed. In plumage color the Embden is pure white throughout. Standard weights: Gander, 20 pounds; young gander, 18 pounds; goose, 18 pounds; young goose, 16 pounds.

The Embden are not as good egg producers as the Toulouse. However, they are considered a better market fowl. The feathers of the Embden command the highest price.

### AFRICAN GEESE

These are natives of Asia and Africa. Correctly speaking, they are natives of Asia, from whence they were taken to Africa more than one hundred years ago. In color they are light gray, with darker shadings on neck. The Standard weights are: Gander, 20 pounds; young gander, 16 pounds; goose, 18 pounds; young goose, 14 pounds. A cross of the African male and Toulouse female produces the most profitable market goose.

### CHINA GEESE—BROWN AND WHITE

China is the native home of these geese. Standard weights: Gander, 12 pounds; young gander, 10 pounds; goose, 10 pounds; young goose, 10 pounds.

They are very profitable egg producers and are very highly prized by many of the market men. When males of either of these varieties are crossed with the common barnyard goose a very fine market bird is secured.

### EGYPTIAN GEESE

They are natives of Egypt. Standard weights: gander, 10 pounds; young gander, 8 pounds; goose, 8 pounds; young goose, 6 pounds. It will be seen that they are the smallest of all geese. However, they are not nearly as good egg producers as are the Toulouse.

In color they are gray and black on upper parts of body; pale buff and yellow, regularly penciled with black lines, on under parts of body.

# THE DUCK

**The Duck Industry in America—The Pekin the Most Popular Duck in America—The Aylesbury Duck Originated in England, in Which Country they are More Popular than the Pekins—The Cayuga Duck a Native of America.**

The duck industry in America has assumed great proportions. There are numerous plants on the Atlantic Coast, each of which market 12,000 to 20,000 ducks annually. The young ducks are sold, usually, when eight weeks old, and, according to a well settled custom, should weigh 4 pounds each. The business has been found to be very profitable.

### THE PEKIN DUCK

Originally found in China, and brought to this country about forty years ago. The Pekin is the most popular duck in the United States, and the strain here developed is beyond question the most profitable market duck in the world. The great duck farms of America are stocked with Pekins. They are good egg producers. They are rapid growers. Pure white in plumage with orange beaks and legs and feet. Standard weights: Drake, 8 pounds; young drake, 7 pounds; duck, 7 pounds; young duck, 6 pounds.

### AYLESBURY DUCK

They are a native of England, being developed in the vicinity of the town of Aylesbury. In their native home they are far more popular than the Pekins. Pure white in plumage with orange shanks and feet. Beak, pale flesh.

### ROUEN DUCKS

These ducks are a native of France. Standard weights: Drake, 8 pounds; young drake, 7 pounds; adult duck, 7 pounds; young duck, 6 pounds.

In color they resemble the wild Mallard duck, being a combination of brown and greenish black.

### CAYUGA DUCKS

They originated in New York. They resemble the Ceylon duck. In color they are a greenish-black. Standard weights: Drake, 8 pounds; young drake, 7 pounds; adult duck, 7 pounds; young duck, 6 pounds.

### CALL DUCKS

No Standard weights. The Gray Call duck is steel gray in color, resembling the Mallard. They are a small duck. The White Call is pure white throughout. They are sometimes called the decoy duck.

### BLACK EAST INDIA DUCKS

A native of East India. Are solid black in plumage color.

### CRESTED WHITE DUCKS

These are natives of Holland, having been brought to this country in an early day by the Dutch. Standard weights: Drake, 7 pounds; young drake, 6 pounds; adult duck, 6 pounds; young duck, 5 pounds.

They are pure white in plumage, supporting a crest.

### MUSCOVY DUCKS

Natives of Brazil and Guiana. In plumage color they are blue-black, sometimes broken with white. Standard weights: Drake, 10 pounds; young drake, 8 pounds; adult duck, 7 pounds; young duck, 6 pounds.

The White Muscovy is pure white throughout.

### INDIA RUNNER DUCKS

Natives of India. In color, light fawn and gray. Standard weights: Drake, 4½ pounds; duck, 4 pounds. They are wonderful egg producers.

### BLUE SWEDISH DUCKS

Natives of Neuvor Pommern, which at the time of their discovery by German fanciers was a part of Sweeu. Standard weights: Drake, 8 pounds; young drake, 6½ pounds; adult duck, 7 pounds; young duck, 5½ pounds. In plumage color they are blue, with white in breast.

# MATING OF THE BREEDS

# MATING LIGHT BRAHMAS

**Prominent Defects As Found in the Show Specimens of the Present Day—What They Are and Why They Should Be Avoided by the Breeder and Fancier Alike—How to Properly Mate to Secure the Desired Results and to Constantly Improve the Breed — The Basic Principles of Light Brahma Mating and Breeding Clearly Defined by John Rumbold.**

It has been said that there comes to every fancier of Standard-bred poultry a desire, some time in his life, to breed the Light Brahma.

For years the Light Brahma represented the highest type of domestic poultry. They were the pride of American and English fanciers alike. Their stately carriage, quiet and easy repose, great size, the pure white and pure black of plumage contrasting sharply, captivated all lovers of the beautiful. Not only this—this Light Brahma was a wonderfully productive egg producer, while as a roaster was far and away the best obtainable.

For many years they made up the largest and most important classes in our poultry shows. They did not seem to suffer because of the Cochin form, which for years amounted to a craze.

Today but few comparatively are seen in the show room, and the number of fanciers breeding them is small, indeed, when we consider the past.

Why is this true? Why has this stately, beautiful and useful fowl fallen from its once high position? It is not a pleasant task to truly answer these questions. The truth is, that the Light Brahma which is today recognized in the show room has been so thoroughly Cochinized as to be, as a general rule, a fowl lacking in usefulness as an egg producer and inferior as a market fowl to the Brahma of the past and to several other breeds and varieties of Standard-bred fowls.

Then, too, the American breeds and varieties have swept over and away all the Asiatic breeds as utility fowls. These American breeds and varieties have not only stepped into first place as market fowls and egg producers, but are today the most popular exhibition stock.

The Light Brahma is not to be lost. So long as men admire the beautiful and the useful this breed of fowls will retain a prominent place. The American Light Brahma Club is not unmindful of the needs of this fowl and fully recognizes the fact that as soon as they are returned to their true form—the distinct Brahma form—there will be a grand revival in their favor. The rounded, contracted, thoroughly Cochin form and feathering must be discarded. Length of back and body must be restored. This demand is imperative. Today hundreds of earnest men and women are engaged in the work of bringing the Light Brahma back to its own. When this is done the breed will take its proper and deserved place, which means that it will be in the very front rank of useful poultry as well as a leader once again in the exhibition halls.

## PROPER MATING

Mr. John Rumbold, secretary-treasurer of the American Light Brahma Club, who is in very close touch with the aims of the leaders in the movement to upbuild this fowl, tells in the following how to properly mate and handle the Light Brahma. It is gospel truth from one well qualified to preach. Mr. Rumbold says:

"Since the advent of the Asiatics in the 'forties' the breeding of poultry has taken on proportions that would astonish the patriarchs of the 'hen fever' could they find their way back to earth again. Prior to the coming of the Asiatics little attention was paid to the breeding of what is known as fancy poultry in the United States. About all the thoroughbreds were pit games, and every flock in the part of the country where I was raised showed unmistakable evidence of game blood, the Black Breasted Reds predominating. We will not stop to inquire into the origin of the Light Brahmas to any great extent, as that is not so necessary to the proper mating of the breed as it is to know the origin or foundation blood of many of the popular breeds of the day, which have so many breeds in their make-up, some strains of which carry blood that fails to 'nick' well with the foundation blood of other strains. Light Brahmas are of Chinese blood, no matter what interested breeders or writers have said to the contrary. It is a fact that we older breeders and fanciers are aware that many breeders of the forties and fifties gave wonderful names to their fowls and told many fairy stories of their ancestry. Back in the fifties I remember the 'Chittagongs,' as they were bred by my father and others in Maryland, and it is undeniable that, with the exception of having single combs, they were identical with the Brahmas of today, and many of them, if they could be capped with a pea comb, would put to shame some of the fowls that are masquerading as Light Brahmas.

"For thirty-six years I have bred this noble fowl, beginning when many of the present-day breeders were unborn. In the early seventies very many of the chicks were hatched with single combs, showing they were descended in a measure from the old Gray Shanghais, the fowls that were bred first by Geo. P. Burnham, Melrose, Mass., in the year 1849, and which were called Burrampooters by Dr. Bennett, and which was later called Brahmas. The so-called Indian origin of the Brahmas is all fol de rol—it has not a leg to stand on. That there were different importations brought into the country is well known, and that these different importations were bred together is also a fact; and this, I believe, in a measure is the reason there is a difference in types in different sections of the country. The east has bred almost exclusively for color, ignoring shape entirely too much. That eastern birds are magnificent in color there is no denying, and that western birds in many instances are of better Brahma type is also just as well known. The old standard—the one in force before the present one—is responsible for much harm done the breed. The word 'medium' in several sections gave license to both judges and breeders until legs, necks and bodies became so shortened that the breed became more Cochins than Brahmas in type, save in back, and that section often showed the convex backs of the Cochins. The present Standard is a long advance over the one it superseded. And if judges will 'hew to line,' a

wonderful improvement will be apparent in the birds on exhibition in the next five years. The wording of the new Standard in sections of legs, neck, back and body must not be lost sight of by the present day breeder and fancier; the changing of these sections from medium to rather long means a world of improvement in the future Brahma; it is a change I have worked for for thirty years. With the exception of wings in females the present Standard gives a perfect Brahma; that section allowing so much white in primaries is radically wrong. The Standard should call for at least the best that has been produced, and thousands of females are bred every year far in advance of the standard for wings. What is the best type of the Light Brahmas? That breeders differ, or breed to different type, we all know. Is it a matter of breeding for color that makes much of the difference? I think so. Many breeders forget or disregard type so they have the color. By far too many ignore type for color. Strip the feathers from the legs of many females, and give them a rose comb, and they would put to shame the best Columbian Wyandottes that are found in any show in the Union. That this should not be so we all know, but, says the breeder, just look what color. Yes, I see it, and would advise my breeder friend of this style of bird to give up Brahmas and go in for Columbian Wyandottes. I am sure he would make them a success. The Light Brahma should be a large fowl, and for its size an active one, well able to hustle for a good part of its living. No breeder can afford to have inactive fowls around him; they won't lay eggs, and it is eggs in a great measure that mean a profit in poultry raising. And there is no reason why Light Brahma breeders cannot breed for type and color as well as breeders of other popular breeds. In fact, it must be done if these noble birds retain what favor they now have, and any hope of putting them back in the popular place they once enjoyed. The breeder must take type into consideration every time he mates a yard of birds.

"For correct type I cannot do better than to refer to the Standard. In my opinion it is all that is to be desired. And birds approximating the requirements as there laid down must be selected if we are to have the highest type of the breed. It calls for such requirements in each section as best calculated to make an active fowl. Size in our breeding stock we must have. An under weight bird is not a fit representative to perpetuate the breed, and unless a late hatched bird—no matter how fine the color—send it to the butcher. An undersized bird won't attract attention. Brahmas are the largest breed we have, and breeders should see to it that they are kept so. Never select a short limbed male as a breeder. He should be up to or over Standard in weight. I have not found it advisable to depend on the females to give size; the male is as much responsible for size in the progeny as the female. And no matter how large the hens may be if the male is an undersized bird there is no reason to expect the chicks to be large. A male must be bright and active if he is to be a good stock getter; a fowl that is always looking for a pleasant spot to rest himself will be a disappointment to his owner when he rounds up the product of the season. He must be strong also in color. There is a certain waste in color generally. Some of the chicks may be darker than the parents, but taken as a whole they usually run a shade or two lighter. A strong colored bird is more attractive, especially so in the show room, where one weak in any section shows to a great disadvantage. And if we are to keep the strong color points we must select the birds we use as breeders especially strong in this regard. Then to sum up, our male bird must be a large, reasonably tall, long bodied bird, strong in color and with well feathered legs and toes. Active, on the alert and vigorous. Such a bird will, with females that are his equals, give a good account of himself.

"In females, size should never be disregarded. Like will produce like. Small hens, small chicks. A large male may help to some extent, but cannot do all to make up for this deficiency. Should always select hens somewhat over the average in length of body. They are usually the best layers in the flock; legs long enough to take them around at a lively gait when necessary; active, alert and always on the go. Color should be as described in the Standard save wing primaries; there we say black, with narrow lacing on lower web. That is the most handsome wing and is a long ways beyond the wing called for in the Standard. Legs must be heavily feathered; no half way business will do with leg feathering. Seems to be one most commonly reproduced faults of the breed. Shall we inbreed, line breed, out cross or how best mate our birds for best results in the progeny? The line breeding charts that are printed now and then may be of use to the ones who study them up, but not to the general breeder who has from one to five yards each season; consequently the small breeder cannot carry out the line breeding system as thus illustrated. I am not a believer in continued close inbreeding; a certain amount of inbreeding is advisable, but selections must be made with great care. Any noticeable fault will likely be reproduced in a greatly aggravated form; but one thing I can't advise—turning down related birds that are fine to make room for an inferior specimen of different strain; the related birds would likely produce better results. Some of the best birds I have ever raised have been from brothers and sisters mated together. Breeders are supposed to have the same end in view—all of them—when they are mating up their breeding pens. And that is producing Standard stock. Consequently all are more or less breeding along the same lines, and there is not the same probability and danger of unsatisfactory results at the present time as there was years ago. And again most breeders are buying birds whenever they find them suited to their wants, until almost every breeder's birds are more or less related. I would, to make it plain and short, breed from the best birds I can secure, whether near related or not, preferring a considerable of the same strain of blood in male and female. I question if inbreeding with careful selections has ever caused a flock of birds to deteriorate in size or stamina.

"Our selections of females for the breeding yard should be confined to hens that have been great layers, or pullets bred from them. Don't get ruffled—but the Brahmas are not the layers they once were; breeding for feather and away from the longer, more active type of bird has done the breed a grievous injury. It must be overcome by breeding from the hens that lay best. It can be done. Why not do it?

"For color matings the best is a male a shade or two darker than Standard to Standard color females, and the best females are those who have gone through an adult moult and have retained their color. Many hens lose in color after moulting; these should be discarded from the breeding pen under all circumstances.

"A very dark male mated to hens poor in color points or a light male to hens too dark for Standard requirements will often produce good results, but are not to be used when the first stated matings can be made. Extremes in color matings will not give general satisfactory results.

"After your selections are made get out and double the size of your breeding yards. If you are breeding only light Brahmas give each yard a run outside on stated days. It has as much to do with the fertility of the eggs as any one thing. Fowls, no matter how well mated, cannot do their best confined in small yards. It is against nature. And many failures have and will result from contracted yards. It makes hens lazy and incapable of caring for themselves when turned out after the hatching season is over."

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FIRST PANEL—Reading from left to right. Black Breasted Red Game Bantams, Brown Red Game Bantams, White Game Bantams. SECOND PANEL—Birchen Game Bantams, Golden Duckwing Bantams, Black Game Bantams. THIRD PANEL—Black Breasted Red Malay Bantams, Silver Duckwing Bantams, Red Pyle Game Bantams. FOURTH PANEL—White Japanese Bantams, Black Tailed Japanese Bantams, Black Japanese Bantams.

# MATING BUFF COCHINS

**The Merits and Shortcomings of America's Most Attractive Exhibition Fowl, the Buff Cochin—Some of the Reasons Why the "Fowl which the Whole World Wants" has Steadily Lost Ground in the Exhibition Room and in the Yards of the Masses of Poultry Raisers—H. N. Hanchett Tells How to Properly Mate and Handle the Breed so as to Produce the Desirable Specimens.**

Despite its greatly lessened numbers, both in the show room and breeding yard, the Buff Cochin retains the distinction of being America's most attractive exhibition fowl. The full-feathered Buff Cochin is unapproached in beauty and grandeur, grace and pleasing repose. Those who contend that no Standard breed or variety of fowls should be hampered with color disqualifications point with pride to the Buff Cochin, which, during the more than fifty years of its existence, has not been thus handicapped. The original Standard makers, and those who from time to time have revised the work, have not been as exacting with this breed as they have with all others, and have left the Buff Cochin Standard free from color disqualification. Yet the Buff Cochin today is the best colored of all buff breeds or varieties. A very large per cent of Buff Cochins come true to color, and it is that even, clear orange buff so much desired by all breeders of buff fowls.

It is within the memory of many fanciers now living that the Buff Cochin was the "fowl the world wanted." There have been, in modern times, several booms which have swept the country from end to end, but they have been as the summer's evening breeze compared with the whirlwind the Buff Cochin created throughout America, England, France and Germany not so very long ago.

Today in a large majority of American shows the stately and beautiful Buff Cochin is not seen. In the larger and more important exhibits the class barely fills, and often falling short. And still this breed is better today, as complying with Standard requirements, than it has ever been. This is the seemingly dual position of the Buff Cochin of today.

He who has not closely followed the progress of the Standard-bred poultry industry in this country and England during the past twenty-five years may be excused if he asks why this beautiful and strikingly attractive fowl has thus lost prestige—why the breed which once stirred the world and filled the cages in all poultry shows is now rarely seen in the exhibition halls.

An answer to this most natural question can be easily made: It is because the full-feathered Buff Cochin, as bred today and for the past fifteen or twenty years, has not proven profitable as a utility fowl in the hands of the masses; the cottagers and the farmers have been unable to handle this breed with profit, and it has been displaced largely by the American breeds.

This being a fact, the Buff Cochin is today largely in the hands of the fanciers, and some of America's most skillful and prominent fanciers are giving their undivided attention to the breed, drawing it nearer to the Standard requirements every year and, most of them, caring little or nothing as to the utility qualities of their favorites. And yet we find occasionally a fancier who is making a record with his Buff Cochins equal to the best given us by the strictly utility breeds. We will not attempt to go into details for the purpose of ascertaining whether the nonproductiveness of the Cochin in the hands of the masses—the many keepers of fowls for eggs and table use—lies with the Cochin itself or is due to mismanagement of the people. We simply take the record as we find it.

There are no other fowls shown today so clearly approaching Standard perfection as the Buff Cochins exhibited at the larger shows. They are the highest type of the product of the fanciers. It has taken years of hard and patient work to produce this marvelously beautiful fowl, yet it is well worth the effort. To take from American poultry the Buff Cochin would be to rob it of one of its most interesting, valuable, attractive and altogether pleasing breeds. May the earnest men and women who have given the world the perfected Cochin continue to hold fast to the idea of the beautiful.

## HOW TO MAKE BUFF COCHINS

The record of achievement bears us out in the statement that no man is better qualified to give advice as how best to mate Buff Cochins so as to produce exhibition and breeding stock than is Mr. H. N. Hanchett. He has given to the world some of its most valuable and perfect specimens of the breed. With him it is a labor of love. Mr. Hanchett says:

I took up the breeding of Buff Cochins with the fixed determination to produce if possible birds of true Cochin type, of larger size, with more abundant feathering, without sacrificing their practical qualities. How well I have followed this determination I leave the public to judge.

But just a word about the birds themselves. Buff Cochins are the fancier's fowl par excellence. Their rich, massive appearance, the beautiful color, the quiet, lovable disposition—who could resist the charm of this variety once he gets some choice specimens in his possession? Yet their beauty is not all they have to recommend them. In yearly egg production they will be found equal to three-fourths of the breeds, and are extra good winter layers. Remember, please, that egg-production is not so much a matter of variety as the strain of that variety. Certain strains of Wyandottes, for instance, produce 250-eggs-a-year hens, while other strains of the same variety will be found about the poorest layers imaginable. We have owned a Buff Cochin hen that layed 50 eggs in 52 consecutive days. This, understand, is very exceptional, but we mention it merely to show that when proper care and method is employed in the breeding, Buff Cochins are profitable from a utility standpoint as well.

As table fowls they are among the best. The flesh is very fine in grain, tender, and of excellent flavor, and a bird of this variety never gets too old to make a toothsome stew.

Where one wishes to keep a few fowls on a city lot no breed could be more desirable. A three-foot fence will confine them, and if you want to see a beautiful sight just place a half dozen of these birds out on a green lawn.

### SELECTION OF BREEDING STOCK

Even where no particular method is employed in the selection of breeding birds a good bird will be found now and then, it is true, but the exception does not prove the rule, as the tendency is constantly toward reversion to the original types, and the "occasional" good bird would not have it in him to stamp his good qualities on his offspring. Hence, the importance of starting with stock from a family of fowls that have been bred up to a high degree of perfection. To the beginner I say: Buy the best stock you can afford, but whatever you buy be sure it comes from stock of careful breeding; then you have good blood to build on and the right foundation for a flock of high-class birds.

We usually begin selecting our breeding stock in December or January, so as to have plenty of time to look them over carefully for a few weeks, removing specimens that may develop undesirable traits and replacing them with finer ones.

The important matter of size must be considered well if a breeder hopes to have birds up to standard in weight. It must be bred for the same as everything else. Reject each season all specimens that are undersized or stunted, particularly on the female side. I do not advise breeding from a male that is much over Standard weight, as such a bird is not likely to be as vigorous and therefore not as strong a breeder constitutionally as a 10-pound cockerel or a 11-pound cock. Size comes more from the female side than from the male line, so does type, while color and head points depend more on the male. The female, if up to Standard requirements in size, will increase the size of the progeny of an undersized male, but it seldom works out that way if the females are small. Of course care and feeding are important, too, as even stock bred from birds possessing large build will deteriorate in size unless given proper nourishment toward the building of bone and muscle.

Constitution or stamina must be considered also. Now, dear reader, don't say it is foolish to consider so many things in the mating up of a pen of fowls, for years of study and experience have convinced the writer that there are many things outside the merits and defects (according to the Standard) of the birds themselves that must be reckoned with if we would secure the very best results from our matings, and this is one of them. One may be sorely tempted to retain as a breeder a bird closely approaching his ideal in type and color but plainly lacking in vitality, but it is a cold hard fact that such a bird is not apt to reproduce itself in his offspring. The bird with bright comb and visibly hardy constitution is the one that will transmit its fine points to the progeny.

### SELECTION OF THE MALE

The male selected to head the breeding yard should be short and blocky and low down on legs, with full, round breast and back as short and full as possible. The big full-cushioned back, in males particularly, is hard to secure, but you can accomplish it by persistently breeding from the hens strongest in this section and gradually work it into your male line.

Another feature very important in selecting the breeding male is shape of tail, which should be short and carried rather low. This gives the bird a shorter and blockier appearance. In carriage preference should be given to the bird that leans slightly forward, or well down in front, with the cushion well up.

As to color in the breeding male, we always use birds of medium shade, perhaps a shade darker than the color of a new gold coin. They should be even in shade and with a rich buff undercolor. Wings and tail as near solid buff as possible.

In fact, to the beginner who can make two matings we advise using in one pen a male showing a little dark in wings and tail. This will assure him plenty of good strong-colored cockerels in case the cockerels from his other mating should show some white, which is apt to occur in breeding from solid buff birds on both sides unless ancestry, stamina and all other conditions are taken into consideration when the mating is made. The male with a little dark in him will get you a good percentage of clear-winged cockerels, if well bred and properly mated, and their average excellence is likely to be higher.

### SELECTION OF THE FEMALE

In choosing the females to go with such a male as I have described, select as large birds as possible and those blockiest in build and with the fullest, softest feathering. If possible pick birds with broad, full-cushioned backs and short tails, carried low, and deep round breasts. This latter feature quite naturally pulls the bird down and forward, giving the true Cochin carriage.

As to shade, if you have the correct color in your male select females that in color match the breast of the male closely. Avoid extremes in breeding for color; that is to say, do not mate very dark birds with very light ones, as the result is almost sure to be disappointment in the shape of very uneven individuals and an uneven flock. These females should be strong in undercolor to skin and solid buff in wings and tail if possible, though do not think that to make up a choice mating you must have all solid buff birds on both sides, for few indeed can make such a mating.

### EXCEPTIONS TO THE ABOVE REQUIREMENTS

A cock or hen that shows color defects, such as unevenness or light undercolor or a little black or white in wing or tail, when such specimen as a young bird was all right in color, should not necessarily be rejected from the breeding pen. An injury to a new feather just starting may cause it to come in white.

So far but few of us have been successful in breeding from solid buff birds on both sides; therefore, we say again: If you do make a mating of solid buff specimens, make another using a male of sound undercolor showing a little dark in primary wing coverts and main tail feathers to insure good cockerels, as mentioned before. The solid buff mating must be worked up to gradually; you must look well to the strength of color, be sure that both male and female are sound in undercolor, buff quills and all, and you must also be sure that no white has appeared in any of this line of birds for several generations back, which your pedigree records will show after a few years, or if you are fortunate enough to secure a pair or trio of birds from a breeder who has this carefully bred stock, you have the right kind of a start at once.

The importance of proper undercolor cannot be overestimated; we believe that as a rule it is given far too little consideration. Very dark undercolor in birds of dark shade has a tendency to produce birds with black in wings and tails. Light undercolor, unless the bird is bred from sound colored ancestry, is likely to throw white. Remember that buff is a made color and that just as soon as you succeed

in getting all black out of your flock white stands ready to come in. The dividing line between the two is almost too narrow to stand on. Therefore we cannot emphasize too strongly the point of working carefully, yes slowly, toward the solid buff goal.

Grand pullets come from a mating of solid buff cockerel or even one showing a little white in wings, tails and undercolor mated with Standard colored females, but such pullets will not make good breeders.

It is true that if one leaves shape and feathering out of the proposition the perfecting of color alone is comparatively easy; but to carry all three along together is quite another matter. It is fighting three battles at once. Then, besides, there are the eye and comb, which are important sections.

It's a deep and intensely interesting study—too much for anyone to thoroughly master. We learn something new every day.

Do not get discouraged if you cannot make your first mating just as I have outlined in this article. The writer did not produce birds like those shown herewith the first season, nor the second or third. But incorporate in your first mating as many of the features mentioned as possible. It is best to either mate in pairs or trios or use trap nests; then mark the chicks raised from each female and keep a careful record of each individual mating from season to season. "But," someone asks, "what if I am unable to find such birds as you have described in my flock?" Now we come up to the point of

## BREEDING OUT SERIOUS DEFECTS

Every breeder of many years' experience has had this to contend with, and we do not claim to be any exception to the rule. Here is the best way, according to our experience, to breed out some prominent defect. Let us suppose, for example, that you have a fine flock of Cochins except that they are stiff in hocks, which is a very serious defect. Select your best cockerel and, say, two of your softest feathered pullets that are otherwise good. Now go to some breeder whose strain of birds is strong in the matter of heavy soft feathering and purchase, perhaps, two of the softest feathered pullets you can. Mate these with your cockerel also, but either keep them in a separate pen or mark the eggs as laid and the chicks as hatched to distinguish one family from the other. Now from these first-year matings you will not get a very even lot of birds, for you have mated extremes, but the chances are they will be an improvement and it places you in position to make a mating the next season that will show marked progress. Now let us suppose that another season has rolled around and we are ready for the next year's matings. If the chicks from the new females produce the best general results select the best cockerel, one that shows the soft heavy feathering of the dam, mating him back to the two original females (one being his dam); then mate two or three of the best pullets back to their sire. You are now "line-breeding," which, if you have started with two good lines of blood, will enable you to show marked improvement each season and more rapidly approach your ideals than by any other plan.

Now to go back to the original pen. In case the chicks from your own trio proved much the best, mate the best and softest feathered cockerel back to your own original two females, and a marked improvement will have been made in the objectionable section.

Any of the numerous defects may be bred out in the same way. We give this detailed outline merely as an example.

While on the subject of feathering I want to call attention to a very important factor in producing soft full hocks to which little attention is paid, and that is the abundance of down or underfluff. If you will select as breeders the birds showing the most of this soft down in all sections the improvement in hocks will be very noticable. A little study of the nature of the different feathers will make this easily understood. Take, for example, the stiff wing or tail feathers; there is no down on them to speak of. On the other hand, look at the fluff feathers of a modern Buff Cochin and you find that they are almost nothing but down. You will see, therefore, that by selecting the birds showing the most down or underfluff, softer hocks each season must be the result.

Brother fanciers, put system into your work. This country today has all the "fair to good" birds it needs—and more, too—but there is now and will always be an active demand for the best, and this demand is certain to increase with the increase in population and wealth of the country.

It is this branch of the business (the production of the best) at which the writer has aimed from the time he purchased his first trio of Buffs. It is this branch of the business toward which we urge all readers of this article to aim and to work—whether for pleasure or profit. It is all the same, for the intense satisfaction that comes from producing something out of the ordinary is in itself one of the richest forms of profit.

## "DONT'S" FOR BUFF COCHIN BREEDERS

Don't breed a cockerel that shows red on wing bows.

Don't breed from pullets showing white in undercolor of neck.

Don't breed from the birds that feather and develop slowly, as such birds will greatly reduce the vitality and early maturing tendency of the flock.

## A FEW SUGGESTIONS IN CLOSING

But each represents one of the little things that when all are taken together mean much.

Keep the Cochins active before and during breeding time. If preparing them for exhibition, keep them as quiet as possible.

Feed mash to your Cochins once a day, preferably at night. Mash promotes looseness of feathering.

A little sugar in the mash for late-hatched chicks will develop them more rapidly. About a cup of sugar to three or four quarts of mash.

Separate your largest chicks from the smaller ones or the latter will not thrive. We yard the largest and give the smaller ones free range.

We clip away some of the fluff from both males and females in our breeding yards.

# MATING SILVER LACED WYANDOTTES

**Some of the Reasons Why the Original Wyandotte, the Silver Laced Variety, has Been Distanced by Sub-Varieties of the Breed—Not all the Fault of the Standard, as Claimed by Many Unsuccessful Breeders—The Running After Foreign Blood an Injury From Which the Breed Has Long Suffered.**

The Silver Laced Wyandotte, the original and true Wyandotte, the breed which thirty years ago was all the rage and which excited wonderful interest not only in America but in England, by many thought to be the most beautiful of Standard-bred fowls, are today found in few breeders' yards, comparatively, and are but small classes in the show room. At the Chicago show annually the Silvers come out strong, and it is a matter of record that here are shown more good Silvers than are found in the eastern shows.

The Silver Laced Wyandotte is, indeed, a beautiful fowl. Not only this, it has no superior as a table fowl and as an egg producer. For a time the tide was from this very worthy fowl. During the past ten years it has been on the gain. We believe it will soon take again its proper place.

## PROPER MATING

Mr. T. E. Orr, who has bred Silvers for more than thirty years, who is competent to talk of the mating and handling of the breed, here tells some of the facts in regard to its sudden coming into favor, of its temporary retreat and of its final return. Mr. Orr says:

"After twenty-five years' experience with them the writer reluctantly admits that these, the original Wyandottes, are the hardest to mate of all the varieties of this breed. This is a humiliating confession to come from one who has always proclaimed the Silvers as 'the best of all the Wyandottes' and 'our favorite variety.'

"During the last ten years we have been breeding, on the same farms and adjacent farms, all the other seven varieties of Wyandottes, and we reaffirm the statement of the above paragraph in different words, thus: Hatch and rear 100 birds of each of the eight varieties of Wyandottes, let them grow to maturity without culling, and you will have fewer of the Silvers that will honestly score 90 points each than of any other variety.

"The reason for this difficulty is not easy to explain—in fact, it is mere guesswork to venture an opinion; but we do thus venture it in the strong or prepotent blood that was found in the varieties from which the Silvers were made up by the originators of this variety thirty years ago. When the writer first saw Wyandottes in 1880 (they were then called American Sebright, Hambletonians, Sebright Cochins and by a half-dozen other different names) the feature that most attracted his attention was the strong resemblance of the male birds to the Dark Brahma cock in its sturdy shape, silvery top, heavily barred wing, dark breast and black, well-spread tail. These characteristics are mostly found today, although we have drifted away from the dark breast and heavy black wing bar; but originally they were all characteristic of Dark Brahmas, whose blood played so important a part in the original Wyandottes.

"That first Standard for Wyandottes promulgated at the Worcester, Mass., meeting, in the absence of the real originator of the Wyandottes. Mr. Whittaker was wrong so far as the wing bar was concerned and helped to fix more permanently the heavy spangled wing bar upon Wyandotte males. It was at the Indianapolis meeting in 1888 that the lamented Ben N. Pierce and the writer labored with the association to convince it of its former error and succeeded. But the erroneous wings had been scattered all over the country in those five years and the strength of the combination of Dark Brahma and Hamburg blood made it most difficult to eradicate.

"The broad, loose comb of the Hamburgs, oftentimes tipping up at the rear, was another inheritance that worked against the Wyandottes, and the white earlobe of the Hamburg ancestry was also fixed in a painfully permanent way. These two Hamburg inheritances still reappear to our great chagrin.

"Another evil that has militated heavily against Silver Wyandottes was their immediate popularity. The 'boom' of the Barred Rocks was at its height in the early eighties. Whittaker and his compeers had been working for something with all the strong points of the Rocks and without their defects. The general public said, 'They have found it—here is the breed that will sweep everything before it.' Prices soared skyward. Every specimen with the least semblance of a Wyandotte, as pictured, brought fabulous prices, and the poorer specimens were kept at home as breeders and their eggs were sent broadcast throughout the country. Faults were fixed that years and years have failed to wholly eradicate.

"Almost equal to the damage done by unscrupulous American breeders was that done by the injection of English or half-English blood. In the nineties the open laced females then coming into vogue attracted the attention of English fanciers, and to emphasize their 'beauty spots'—back and breast—these females were mated in many cases with pure white Wyandotte males. To obtain one very open-laced female hundreds of off-colored females were cheerfully sacrificed. To correct the wide-cut evil very dark males were next crossed upon them. Extreme colors in opposite sexes and the other universal evils of the double mating system quickly resulted.

"Some beautifully colored specimens, especially of the females, were imported back to America from England, likewise a few males. These last, while usually well laced on back, breast and thighs, were almost universally bad in shape, with black rings around their necks instead of a silvery hackle, and what was still worse in a breeding bird, they were nearly always possessed of 'cotton' undercolor instead of 'dark slate.'

"The writer has summarized briefly the causes that have made the breeding of Silvers so difficult. Even the very few who have adhered strictly to a strain, breeding year by year from selections of the best, have found it hard enough to secure a fair percentage of typical specimens, when upon

their line-bred birds have been crossed the mixed blood referred to, the results have generally been very unsatisfactory.

"What, then, is the rule—the safe rule—for breeding Silver Wyandottes? Without any hesitation we put it in three words—follow your Standard. This means that you must avoid the following most palpable mistakes:

"1. Avoid extreme matings. Two extremes seldom bring a happy medium.

"2. Avoid the insidious devices of those who advocate double mating. If double mating is necessary our Standard is wrong. No fad of modern days has been used so successfully as a means to rob the dear people.

"3. Avoid a light or pearl eye.

"4. Avoid light undercolor. Study the neck and back of every male bird and if it contains white, spurn him as you would poison.

"5. Avoid as far as possible a secondary white edging on the breast and thighs of males and on these sections, also backs, of females.

"6. Avoid in both sexes, but especially in males, a a Wyandotte are a bird of curves with a low set keel. specimen long in the shanks and thighs, long in the back or with a high breast. Remember that the typical marks of

"7. Avoid as far as possible any reddishness on shoulders or back of either sex. Remember that the colors of the Silver are pure white and pure black with an undercolor half way between, namely, a dark slate."

# MATING WHITE PLYMOUTH ROCKS

**White Plymouth Rock Breeders Assigned a Special Task, the Keeping Intact of the True Rock Shape and Form—The Steady Advance of this Variety Due Largely to the Wisdom of its Best Friends—The Value of an Unbroken Male Line in Breeding Operations—Preserving the Egg Type.**

The bad effects of a deviation from correct form seem to show more plainly in the White Plymouth Rock than in most any other breed or variety of fowls recognized by the Standard of Perfection. Break the lines in this fowl and the specimen seems to go to pieces wholly. One reason for this is that a White Rock, built in proper lines, is a bird most pleasing to the eye, and in its entirety a thing of beauty and grace, suggesting strongly a combination of beauty and utility.

There are annually shown a large number of White Rocks which should have been assigned to the butcher's block. Some breeders striving only it would seem for whiteness of plumage have sacrificed shape and form. In one of the leading shows last winter the judge refused to place a first award in this class, because, he said, there was not a bird shown in the class preserving true Rock shape.

Ruin the shape of the White Rock and you ruin the variety. Nor can the White Rock breeder ever go as far toward Wyandotte shape as have many Barred Rock breeders and maintain the variety. It is absolutely necessary to the life of the variety that the long back, deep breast and abundance of body room and surface be maintained. U. R. Fishel, who is abundantly able to give advice in this matter says:

"One of the greatest secrets of success in the poultry business is successful mating of the variety of fowls you are breeding. You want the results of your matings to be better each year, therefore to obtain this improvement you must know how to mate your breed. In mating White Plymouth Rocks, the most beautiful and profitable of all fowls, you should select a male bird with as good low comb as possible, a bird full in the hackle, showing strength, a male bird that is active, alert and chuck full of vigor, a bird absolutely white in all sections. He must be broad across the back, with a rather long back raising with a concave sweep to the tail; tail should be short and carried low and fairly well spread. Breast of the male bird should be broad and full, showing capacity for carrying a lot of flesh. The male White Plymouth Rock should stand well up on his legs and same should be set well apart and if possible of a good yellow color. I always like a heavy-boned bird, both in males and females. Take a male of the above description and mate to him females of good size, heavy bone, birds of full broad breasts, broad backs with an incline from back of neck to tail and a short, well spread tail, female with good head points, and you are sure to secure from this mating a large per cent of strictly high class specimens, provided, of course, that the birds you have mated come from a strain of fowls that you know are well bred and will give to their progeny that high quality we all desire. Blood will tell in White Plymouth Rocks as well as in any kind of stock. Something like fifteen years ago, when I began breeding White Plymouth Rocks, it was almost impossible to secure an absolute white bird with rich yellow legs, but by careful mating we are producing them now by the thousands. This was done by careful mating. But a few years ago all White Plymouth Rocks had very large, unsightly combs. Today no breed of fowls have neater low combs than the well-bred White Plymouth Rocks. By careful mating year after year one gets in complete control over his flock that he can by properly mating change any section of his birds as if by a magic wand. This, to be sure, takes years of study and time, but if one starting will start with the best obtainable in their selected variety there is no need of making a mistake in mating.

"It is not supposed everyone breeding White Plymouth Rocks has just such birds as I have described above to mate, but you can select them as near this type and make up as possible, so in several seasons' work you will have the quality you desire."

# MATING BARRED ROCKS

**Some of the Dangers Now Threatening America's Most Popular Fowl—Why the Present System of Judging the Barred Rock is Wrong, and Where it will Lead to Unless Speedily Checked—The Disregard for Surface Color and Undue Attention Now Being Given to Under Color Detrimental to the Interest of all Concerned.**

The Barred Rock remains America's most popular fowl, and there is nothing to indicate that it will be displaced. They are found in large numbers upon the farms, in the homes of the cottagers and in the fanciers' yards, always yielding good returns when properly attended to. As an exhibition fowl they still rank first, although White Rocks and White Wyandottes have of late moved up into the same class. The old style of Barred Rock is no longer tolerated in the show room or in the yard of the careful, painstaking breeder. These birds of the wide, open barring are no longer seen. Now the effort is to get narrow barring and as deep barring as possible. This has resulted in the present-day specimen being darker in color, or seemingly so, than the type of birds shown a few years ago. And right here we think a note of warning should be sounded. Let me quote one of America's most successful breeders and exhibitors of Barred Rocks, a statement made to the writer in the New York show room last January:

"The present system of judging Barred Rocks is wrong, radically wrong. Now the craze is for 'barring to the skin.' The judge when he steps up to a cage takes out the specimen and proceeds to look for under color and deep barring, ignoring in part or wholly surface color. Here is an illustration. There is a hen that has the finest surface color of any Barred Rock hen exhibited at New York for years. Yet she is unplaced because she is not 'barred to the skin'! It is all wrong, and the Barred Rock will be ruined if this system prevails. We must pay more attention to surface color and marking—the things we see in a specimen and which make it attractive."

There is so much truth in the above statement that all judges and breeders should give it careful attention. Shape and surface color are being sacrificed for the deep barring to such an extent that the variety will soon be ruined if a halt is not made. And this is the opinion of the best breeders, who are just as anxious for good under-barring as are those who are now carrying their preference to a dangerous limit.

Mr. M. S. Gardner, who by the record made is one of America's foremost breeders and successful exhibitors, in the following tells us how to mate and to produce the choicest Barred Rocks:

Several years ago the poultry papers were full of letters from different breeders of Barred Plymouth Rocks, each telling just how to manage to produce good ones. Some favored standard matings, some called them single matings, and others claimed that the double mating system was the only way. Very little has been written upon the subject of late, or at least comparatively little has appeared in the poultry press. While attending the recent poultry show at Cleveland the matter was again brought to my attention by several breeders who are just taking up Barred Rocks as a specialty and who ask to be given some pointers on the proper manner of mating to produce the greatest number of first-class exhibition and breeding specimens and the smallest possible percentage of the kind that is consigned to the pot at an early age. So far as I know, at the present time, all the prominent Eastern breeders are using the double mating system, and for the benefit of the new men and women in the business I will try to explain as briefly as possible the meaning of the term double mating, and how it is applied in our yards to the breeding of Barred Plymouth Rocks.

If the man who is just starting out to breed Barred Plymouth Rocks buys a pen of fowls mated for breeding and raises a number of chicks from the pen, he is sure to make the discovery, when they reach maturity, that the males are all much lighter in color than the females. If the females raised from the pen are of standard or exhibition color, then the males will be too light for exhibition; or if, on the other hand, the pen produces cockerels of standard color and barring, the pullets will be much too dark for exhibition. This has been the case since Barred Plymouth Rocks originated. The standard for Barred Rocks describes a male and a female of practically the same shade of color, but nature refuses to produce them that way from one pen or mating. After a number of years' experimenting along different lines and trying different methods of mating, the most successful exhibitors of this variety began to use the double mating plan, or a mating of dark birds to produce cockerels of the right color and character of barring, and a lighter mating to produce females of the clean color and barring so much admired in the show room.

Our own cockerel mating pens are usually headed by our best exhibition males, or at least those that have been bred from a long line of exhibition males. We sometimes use a male that is darker than standard if we know that his breeding is right. With this male of standard color, or perhaps darker, we use females very dark in color and narrow in barring, and bred from a long line of cockerel-bred birds. It is not enough that females should be dark in color. In order to be reasonably sure of results, they should be of the same line of blood as the male, and both should have bred in line for a number of years. In other words, you should be able to trace their ancestry back to a long line of fine exhibition males. The standard describes a bird with yellow legs and beak. We make no effort to breed our cockerel-bred females to standard in color of either plumage or of legs and beaks. Many of our best cockerel-bred females show no yellow in either legs or beaks, and those that do, have black spots on both. In color of plumage, we prefer females so dark and narrow in barring as to show no white between the dark bars below the surface, or after the first three or four bars, and very little on the surface. On the lower part of the feather, or for the last inch or so next the skin, we prefer to have the bars run together. From females of this kind, we get cockerels good in surface color, good in legs and beaks, and with barring showing distinctly to the skin. Cockerels bred from females that show white in under-color are very liable to be weak in under-color, and are often what we call "cotton-backs."

In our matings to produce exhibition pullets, we use our best females of standard or exhibition color. These females are the result of a number of years' careful breeding for good Plymouth Rock shape, narrow, clean-cut barring, and clean color. The males used in our pullet matings are of the same line of breeding, but much lighter in color than the females. While it is desirable to have the barring in a pullet-bred male as straight and regular as possible, it is not always desirable to have him barred to the skin like an exhibition male. If the females in the pen are good in under-color and barring, we prefer to use a male that is not too heavy in under-color. If a pullet-bred cockerel's mother and sisters are good in under-color and barring and of fine exhibition quality, we do not hesitate to breed from him, even if he shows considerable white in under-color of back and some in other sections. Pullets sired by such a male are more sure to be of clean surface color than those sired by a male that is barred to the skin. A pullet-bred male, to be valuable as a breeder, should be of typical shape and should have very rich yellow legs and beak.

In addition to the points above mentioned, both cockerel and pullet-bred birds should have red or bay eyes, and should be free from standard disqualifications.

From the best matings, however, one must expect a large number of inferior birds, fit only for market purposes. This is true of all standard breeds, and especially so of the parti-colored varieties. Comparatively few high-scoring exhibition birds are produced in any breeder's yards in any one season. I make this statement after having had the pleasure of visiting the plants of nearly all the prominent Eastern breeders. The beginner who expects 90 or 95 per cent of his chicks to live to be prize-winners and fine exhibition specimens will be sorely disappointed. The defect most often found, perhaps, in Barred Plymouth Rocks, is that of black feathers. Even the best birds, especially females, usually have a number of black feathers in various parts of the plumage. But these are not alarming to the experienced breeder, as up to the present time it has been impossible to breed them out. In preparing Barred Rocks for the show room, however, it is always advisable to leave all black feathers at home.

Never breed from either males or females showing positive white in ear-lobes or feathers on legs or feet. Occasionally a chick will hatch from eggs from the most carefully selected pen of breeders, that at maturity will show white in ear-lobes or feathers on legs. It will require years of careful selection in mating yet to entirely breed out these tendencies inherited from a remote ancestry.

If you are just beginning to breed Barred Plymouth Rocks, do not buy your pen of females from one breeder and your male from another. Mating birds of two different strains of any parti-colored variety is an experiment and usually results in disappointment. It should be attempted only by the experienced breeder. The safer and surer plan is to buy stock or eggs from some one reliable breeder. If stock is purchased, have the pen mated up for best results by the breeder who raised the birds. The man or woman who begins breeding Barred Plymouth Rocks with a pen mated for producing fine cockerels and another pen mated to produce fine pullets, if these birds are line-bred and mated by a reliable and experieneed breeder, is started on the right road to win the coveted ribbons in the Barred Rock aisle.

# MATING R. C. RHODE ISLAND REDS

**How to Avoid What Seems to be a Common Error in the Mating of Rose Comb Rhode Island Reds—Some of the Fine Lines to be Drawn in the Mixing of Colors of this Beautiful and Useful Fowl—How to Secure the Deep Red and Prevent an Abundance of Buff.**

The remarkable popularity of and demand for Rhode Island Reds has resulted in a large number of undesirable fowls of this breed being placed upon the market. We are now finding them ranging from the beautiful even red so much desired to the undesirable buff. The writer in his capacity as judge has been selected by the national club for the past two years to pass upon the Reds, both single and rose combs, at the meeting and display of the club at Cincinnati and Madison Square Garden. We have handled them in the show room in every section of the country—east, west, north and south. Each year we have noted some improvement in the breed, not a great improvement, but as much advance as could be expected. Yet the Rhode Island Red is far from what its best friends wish it to be—what it surely will be in time.

There are too many Reds shown carrying Wyandotte shape. The Red has a shape and form unlike any other fowl. Its long back and full breast with the appearance of a slight tip forward must be secured and maintained. Here is where so many Red breeders are failing. And unless type is given more attention by a majority of breeders there will not be the desired advancement in the breed.

Color is far from satisfactory. At New York and Cincinnati we found a few specimens of extraordinary merit. This proves conclusively that the deep, rich red color demanded by the Standard is obtainable, for here we found it. But so many specimens bordered on the buff with light to white undercolor. It seems especially difficult to secure hens that will hold the desired color. In pullets it is easier.

The single comb variety has so far led in the number of entries and in popular favor, so it would seem. During the past two years there has been a tremendous demand for the rose combs. It is, we believe, a demand that will continue. Upon the whole, the quality of the rose combs has not been quite as good as the single combs.

Mr. E. L. Prickett, secretary of the Rhode Island Red Club of America, one of the most prominent breeders and successful exhibitors of rose combs in America, tells us how to mate to secure the desirable color and shape. What he says as to color will apply alike to the mating of single combs. Read carefully what Mr. Prickett says:

How to mate Rose Comb R. I. Reds is a subject that has puzzled every breeder of Reds, and there are but very few who can mate up a pen and foretell what the results will be unless they know the breeding back of the birds.

It is far easier to advise what not to mate, so as this may be the means of helping some one, I will tell what I have learned from my own matings.

Type is of first importance, so don't breed from overgrown, leggy birds, either male or female, nor yet from small, pinched up birds. Reds should be down on their legs, yet should not be blocky, but of good length of body.

Reds are strictly a practical business fowl, originated with that idea. Standard weights: Cock, 8½ lbs.; hen, 6½; cockerel, 7½; pullet, 5 lbs. When you go much above or below these weights you are getting away from an ideal Red, so in mating your birds, govern yourself by these weights and adhere to them as closely as possible. Above all things don't mate large and small birds together, but if you wish to increase or decrease the size, do so gradually, and not try to do it all in one season. Remember it is the female you must look to for type and ideal size, and to the male more particularly for color.

Do not include in your pen a lot of females of all sizes, shapes and colors with the idea of striking good results from some of them. You probably will get good results from some individual, but how will you know any better the following year which birds gave you best results?

Select your females as uniform in type and color for each pen as possible, even though you only have two to five females in the pen. In this way you can mark your chicks and keep a record and observe closer what the results are, both for type and color.

Color seems to be the difficulty to be solved. Light colored males do not give satisfactory results, for it is the tendency for red and buff breeds to run out to light buff or white. So in order to keep up color, use medium to medium dark males.

Very dark birds will produce black in surface and smut in undercolor. So avoid extremes in color, the same as you would extremes in size. Now after you have type and surface color selected, don't think for a minute that your bird is all right. Next look at the undercolor.

A male showing weak undercolor is undesirable. White in undercolor of hackle and saddle over hips is a very common defect, and a male being very bad in these sections should be rejected, as the defects will be intensified in offspring unless overcome by good qualities of female. A whitish, smoky undercolor at base of tail is also objectionable.

A slight amount of smut in a male's back is not so objectionable as some people think, and oftentimes such a bird proves a remarkably good breeder, but he must be free from white or black in hackle, saddle and base of tail. Never breed from a male defective in all these sections.

Great care should be used in mating a male showing smut in back. This smut should not be more than a slight barring across the middle of the feathers on the back, next to the web, but never to the end of the quill. The quill should always be red, not black nor white.

A male having a rich dark surface color and a smoky, whitish undercolor, even though free from pure white or smut will not prove a satisfactory breeder.

Black in wing bars is also objectionable.

What kind of a male, then, will prove the best breeder? I prefer a male having a good, strong color with a good lustre to surface plumage. What is meant by strong color? I mean a bird of good rich surface color, medium to medium dark, but the undercolor correspondingly strong and not showing much contrast.

A male of medium surface color with strong undercolor, if bred from a medium dark colored male, will often prove a good breeder.

Have as little contrast in hackle, back, shoulders and saddle as possible. If male is weak in undercolor of hackle be sure he is strong in back and saddle or if a little smut in back, be sure he is free from white or black in hackle or saddle.

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FIRST PANEL—Reading from left to right. LaFleche, Crevecœurs, Black Sumatras. SECOND PANEL—Muscovy Ducks, East Indian Ducks, Cayuga Ducks. THIRD PANEL—Aylesbury Ducks, Crested White Ducks, Pekin Ducks. FOURTH PANEL—Indian Runner Ducks, Rouen Ducks, Blue Swedish Ducks.

# MATING PARTRIDGE WYANDOTTES

**Some of the Lines In the Breeding of Partridge Wyandottes That Must Speedily Be Considered and Which Are Now Being Neglected—Too Much Attention Given to Color Markings, Or, Rather Too Little Attention Given to Shape—How to Maintain the Variety**

The Partridge Wyandotte, one of the most beautiful of varieties of fowls, took all by storm when first shown, and for a few years were the popular new thing in fancy circles both in this country and England. Enormous prices were paid for what were considered good specimens of the variety in England, the prices reaching $1,000 per specimen in more than one instance. Then in a short time the air was taken out of the inflated boom, and, quite the natural thing, the Partridge Wyandotte was found standing upon its own merits, as eventually all things and men must do in this rather practical world.

The Partridge Wyandotte is a fowl of beauty and worth. It came to the probe with its color markings bearing very strong lines, it being, seemingly, not a very difficult task for the fancier to clothe this fowl of Wyandotte shape in a dress of the Partridge Cochin. Not that color markings have been perfected in the Partridge Wyandotte, for we find but few, comparatively, of near approach to perfection in color. The striking fault seems to be that there is an abundance of brick red in the females. Then, too, the strong color seems to run out in fluff and back.

But it is in shape that the Partridge Wyandotte, as exhibited, has its greatest failing. During the past few years, notably the last two exhibition seasons, we have found far more than a majority of specimens shown to be of very poor shape, in many, too many, instances there being a near approach to the Cochin shape. This failing seems to be a general one, and unless the breeders speedily correct this evil the departure of the Partridge Wyandotte from the show room and from fanciers' pens will soon be made permanent.

Mr. W. A. Doolittle, who by reason of his ability as a breeder and success as an exhibitor is well qualified to advise the fraternity as how best to mate Partridge Wyandottes, says:

"Ancestry should be first considered. Too much stress cannot be put on this point as birds coming from a line of meritorious ancestors that have been produced by proper matings for years are worth much more than those seemingly as good that have come from chance mating. The former can be depended upon to produce their equal and a per cent of their superior; while those from a chance mating, yet seemingly as good, are almost sure to prove a disappointment.

"I take ancestry first into consideration, choosing the best birds that have come from the best dams, grandams, etc., and from the best sires coming from the best grandam and grandsire. To do this it is necessary to use trap nests or mate pairs and mark the chicks as soon as hatched. A record should be kept of all markings made from year to year. In this way you will be able to keep track of your pedigrees and markings.

"Next to be considered is shape. See that they have the proper Wyandotte shape. Remember shape makes the breed and color the variety. As the male is equal to one-half the pen I will consider him first and too much care cannot be taken in his selection. If possible consider his ancestry; see that he has the Wyandotte shape, a broad, deep, well-rounded breast, full hackle and saddle, rising with a concave sweep to tail and let me say that my preference for a breeder is one rather short in tail, appearing not to be fully developed. A large per cent of the birds as bred are too long and too high in tail. Keep track of the young cockerels and pullets that seem blocky and slow in developing tail. If you continue to use as breeders birds that developed tail too young you will soon have a flock of Leghorn tails.

"The male should be active, strong and vigorous and attentive to his mates. One that is disposed to be cross to them, picking them and driving them away from their food is not likely to be a good breeder. Some males will feed their mates and almost starve themselves. You may be sure this bird is a good breeder, but he should be taught to eat from your hand and for such birds there is nothing equal to whole corn, fed from the hand once a day.

"In color the birds should conform to the standard. His under color should be slate, breast greenish or glossy black; back should be broad and flat at shoulders, in color dark red; saddle red with black stripe down the center of each feather; fluff black or black tinted with red; primaries black on inner web; bay edge on outer web; secondaries black, outside web red terminating with black at end of each feather; covers greenish black forming a well defined bar of this color across the wings when folded; tail black; sickles and covers glossy greenish black; lower covers glossy black, but may be edged with red. Comb should be of good Wyandotte shape, but I should not sacrifice other good points merely for the sake of comb so long as it is rose, and I know the bird has come from a strain usually having good Wyandotte combs.

"Hackle and saddle well laced and the entire plumage free from white. I bred Golden and Buff Wyandottes in their early days and in my experience white in plumage of any of the Wyandottes, except the White Wyandottes, is a serious defect and one hard to get rid of. To be a success one should be with his birds every day while they are growing; watch the young cockerels; those that have well penciled breasts or more properly speaking those that are barred, while in their chick feathers and molt into adults with glossy black breasts will, if they have come from a proper ancestry (and these are usually the birds that have) prove to be the birds that will produce the well penciled pullets. You may rest assured that if he has a well laced hackle and saddle and comes from ancestors that have been produced by proper matings he will produce good cockerels as well. In this way good males and females are produced from single matings. I have always produced my show birds from single matings. Many times my first prize male

and female were full brother and sister. Therefore I shall always discourage double mating. Why should a breeder so mate his birds that all of the males from one mating and all of the females from another mating should have to be discarded, and last, but not least, what happens when a customer purchases a fine male produced from a male mating and a fine female produced by a female mating, and mates them together? Nothing but failure and disappointment. In this way many have given up a breed in disgust who otherwise would have made true fanciers and valuable aids to the breeders of this variety.

"In choosing females the same attention should be given to her ancestry as to that of the male and she should be of good Wyandotte shape and good in size as it is she that largely governs the size of the offspring, the male governing shape and color to a great extent. She should be well penciled throughout and free from shafting; under color slate; hackle red with black stripe through each feather. The standard now permits penciling in hackle and I think it is one of the strong points to look for in a good breeder, for without it you will not get well penciled pullets. The color throughout should be mahogany red or reddish brown, distinctly penciled with very dark brown, the standard calls it; I think it should be black. If your females come from well marked ancestry that have been properly mated for well penciled throughout and have some penciling at least in lower hackle they should be valuable breeders. However, to get the best results judicial line breeding should be practiced. Do not expect to produce good birds from entire out crosses. There are several strains of Partridge Wyandottes; for instance my strain of Partridge Wyandottes has been produced by certain crosses and single mating and to cross them with another strain that has been produced by different crosses or those that have been produced by double mating means failure except as mine have been line bred they would show their influence over birds that were not line bred.

"In nearly every flock there is one hen or pullet that is superior to all others. A pullet that surpasses all others in penciling is especially valuable. Each egg from this pullet should be incubated and the chicks marked; use the best penciled pullets from this mating and so on. Also choose each season the best cockerels from this mating. Follow advice as to selecting the cockerels and you will be surprised in the improvement of your flock. To line breed mate the best pullets of this mating to their sire and the best cockerel to his dam and so on.

"Do not lose sight of care and feed for as much depends on this as on the parent stock. Good health is the secret of fine condition and is never the result of improper feeding or care. Without health and vigor all the labor you can bestow upon them will not make show birds of them. You may take two lots of chicks, equal in every respect, coming from the best of parent stock; give one lot proper care and feed, the other improper care and feed and they will not resemble each other. The first lot will develop into a fine flock of good birds, good in shape, color and markings. The second will be nothing but culls, off in shape, off in color and they will not even be marked like the first lot. When you reach the point that calls for the statement, "I cannot grow my chickens to proper size," depend upon it the fault is yours and you should learn to remedy this evil or give up trying to raise fancy poultry. This point is made very plain to me. I ship eggs every season to hundreds of customers all over the United States and Canada. Some will complain that the birds raised from them are undersize and sometimes will report they are all culls. Others who received eggs from the same yards and at the same time cannot say too much for the birds they have raised from them and later will report having won with them at leading shows. The first party blames the parent stock when the blame should rest with him. The second party deserves at least a part of the credit.

"I wish to impress upon my readers lastly, but not least, that improper care and feeding will not produce show birds, no matter what the parent stock may have been. Even hard work and attention, if improperly bestowed upon the birds, will not change the results.

# MATING PARTRIDGE COCHINS

**Some of the Reasons Why the Partridge Cochin Type Is So Unfixed and the Desirable Shape and Form so Seldom Found in Specimens in the Show Room and Breeding Yard—A Study in Color Blending Which Reveals the Cause of the Inferior Coloring of Many Strains of this Magnificent Show Bird**

Wherever we go we find an individual type of the Partridge Cochin. For years Buff Cochin breeders have been producing fowls of the desirable Cochin shape and form. It seems to be a fixed characteristic with the Buffs. How different it is with the breeders of Partridge Cochins. Rarely do we find a Partridge that is of that beautiful type of Cochin which is so much desired. The Brahma type is in evidence and very conspicuous in nearly all the shows. This is the most serious fault with the Partridge Cochin of today. That this will be overcome goes without saying.

The color markings of a Standard Partridge Cochin, especially the female, are beautiful. Yet how seldom we find a specimen well colored. For some time there has raged a conflict between certain breeders of this fowl as to how best to mate to produce the desirable color markings of the breed. These advocates are far apart. Some one is wrong. There must be a getting together of the fanciers most interested in this grand old breed, and a system of breeding for color established. If this is not done the Partridge Cochin will disappear from the show room.

Mr. W. H. Harrison, Jr., for years a breeder and exhibitor of some of the best Partridge Cochins produced and shown in America, tells in the following how he mates the breed to produce this class of stock. He says:

A man of very wide experience and probably as keen an observer as there is in the poultry world, recently made this remark: "If one hundred men were each given a good flock of Partridge Cochins within five years ninety-nine of them would have their flocks ruined."

A writer in a recent issue of the American Fancier, mourns because many are already dropping Partridge Wyandottes, on account of the difficulty of breeding choice specimens.

About eighteen months ago the publisher of this journal asked the writer if there was anything he knew about breeding Partridge Cochins that he would not be willing to tell the readers of the American Poultry Journal. Being answered in the negative, and assured that the love of the variety far exceeded any selfish interest as a breeder, Mr. Bates requested an article for the January number, 1904. His last injunction was: "Put in as many things as you can that have never before appeared in print—secrets of the trade."

Soon after the appearance of the article the writer received a number of letters from old breeders of Partridge Cochins, agreeing with the points made, some even hinting that some of the statements in the article it was just as well not to make public.

Within sixty days after the article was printed a new breeder of Partridge Cochins, who has gained considerable notoriety during the last three years on account of prizes won at some of the leading western shows, had articles in two journals, telling how to mate Partridge Cochins. He said he produces exhibition pullets and cockerels from a single mating, using males with dark undercolor.

Another man has published two articles this spring on Partridge Cochins. He is an "old timer" and should know better but here is a quotation from his article in American Fancier of March 11: "The present demand for Partridge Cochins makes the use of double mating unavoidable if we hope to produce the best. We must have a line for males and one for females, and never crossmate or intermingle the blood lines for the males; do not pay any attention to the color of the females along exhibition lines. Work for the color of the male, and mate the females of this line to the best colored males all the time, and keep the largest and best of these females for producing exhibition males. By so doing you will build up a color line for producing males that will give better color results each year. We have seen this continued until every feather on the back had a black center, the same as the saddle feathers, and some of the females from such matings had almost black breasts and a hackle almost like the male in color."

Now, I do not refer to these cases to make any personal criticisms, nor because their methods are entirely different from mine. Neither do I refer to them because I know that they are wrong, and that I am right, and can prove it, but because this involves the whole question of undercolor, and I want to discuss that in this connection.

I have been told by several persons who have visited the poultry shows and poultry yards of England, that the English breeders excel the breeders on this side in the richness and brilliancy of the color of their fowls; and that they practically ignore the question of undercolor in the show room. We have much to learn from our neighbors across the ocean.

We have a foolish craze in this country for undercolor. I have not heard of any one being excluded from full dress functions because of the color of his underclothes, but if the ones who set up the standard of dress were of the same mind as those who make our standard of dress for our fowls, it would be obligatory on one to wear a certain shade of underclothes. Many fine birds dressed in royal robes of the most correct and exacting styles are debarred from the company of their inferiors because their underclothes are not the shade some one thought they should be. To an outsider it must look mighty silly.

Did you ever examine the undercolor of a parti-colored bird of gorgeous plumage, whether from the tropics or from our own woods? Did you ever see one with a very highly colored surface, that had an absence of white in the undercolor? No, sir, and you never will.

Did you ever look into an artist's box of colors? Did you notice that his tube of white was larger than any other? Did you watch him paint, and notice how he would mix white in most of his combinations to produce the desired shades? Do you think he could take some red, brown and black paints, and without any white, mix them until he produced a rich mahogany? If you think you can do that, just try it! After a few trials you will wake up to the foolish proposition of having a standard require you to get that result, by mixing colors with your birds and not use white.

There is not a Partridge Cochin breeder in America who claims to produce fine birds of both sexes from dark undercolored males that would want you to go through the files of the express office at his town and let you find out just where his exhibition females did come from. No one can get rich mahogany colored pullets from a dark undercolored male. With an absence of white the colors will not mix and make mahogany.

When I began to breed Partridge Cochins in 1875 the poultry journals contained articles as they do now, saying as the above writer does, that it is necessary for best results to have two pens, one for each sex. I have never bred that way and I never shall.

A man with a pen of Partridge Cochins sends to a breeder who grows his birds on the double mating plan, $5 for a cockerel for new blood. I wonder if there has ever been a case where the breeder wrote back and told his customer that he could send him a cockerel that would not give him one single pullet that a lover of the breed would have on his place over night, or he could send him one that would not produce one good cockerel in a season's breeding, and ask him which he would prefer. Is one treating a customer honestly if he does not so write?

In my early days as a breeder I got some fine Black Javas. In two years my chicks came with red necks. After eating those with red necks I only had one cockerel left with a black neck. He had considerable white on him. The chicks raised that season were very fine and it taught me a lesson. I never had any more red necks on my black fowls. That experience caused me to lose all fear of white undercolor on my Partridge Cochins.

In going through the files of the poultry journals for the past thirty years you can make a list of hundreds of men and women who once bred Partridge Cochins who do not breed them now. True, tastes will change, but you never saw one of them that will not now become exceedingly enthusiastic over a fine Partridge Cochin, and tell you that no fowl is more beautiful than a well bred Partridge Cochin, none better on the table, none more easily cared for, none that will stand confinement better, or lay more dollars' worth of eggs in a year, but it is so hard to produce fine specimens.

It does not matter how many breeders object to my position. Anyone may prove which is the right way by trying.

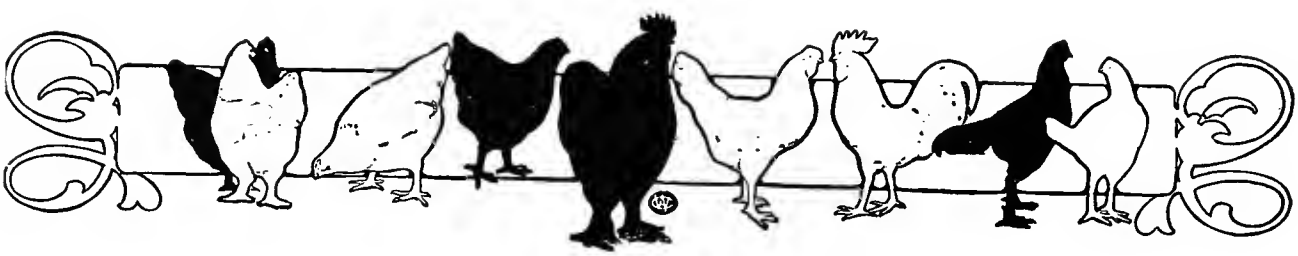
If you will take a standard female and a male with rich dark standard surface color, but white undercolor, you will get half of the pullets show birds and one-fourth of the cockerels show birds. Your most valuable males you cannot send to a show on account of some crank making a motion and a lot of disinterested men voting yes, without knowing why they did it. But never mind, keep on breeding and you can show a flock such as the one who breeds on the double mating plan never dreamed of owning.

Some writers say to use a male with light surface color for your pullets. If you do that you will spoil the ground color of your pullets. Mix in your light color by having white undercolor that does not show.

I have not bred Partridge Wyandottes, but my opinion is that this same way of mating will produce good results with them. I give this simply as an opinion, as I do not know by experience.

I am of the opinion that this question of undercolor is of the most vital importance in breeding all parti-colored fowls and I hope the day is not far away when one can take his best breeding birds into the show room.

[While Mr. Harrison has directed his argument mainly in the line of Partridge Cochin coloring, his article brings up the question of the effect of undercolor in the production of all parti-colored fowls. This mixing of color matter to produce desired colors and shades is something which has heretofore been given little attention, either by the breeders or the standard makers. It is indeed an important matter, and we hope that fanciers will give the question a thorough discussion in these columns.—Thomas F. Rigg.]



# MATING S. C. RHODE ISLAND REDS

**The Single Comb Rhode Island Red Could Be Advanced Very Rapidly, So Far As Color and Shape are Concerned, if the Indiscriminate Use of Cockerels and Pullets as Breeders Was Stopped—The Effect of Breeding From Unknown Quality a Serious Matter. Stock Which Has Come Through the Adult Moult Shows Its Quality. Some of the Simple but Important Kinks of an Eminently Successful Breeder and Exhibitor**

In the now exceeding strong competition for show honors among Rhode Island Red breeders, the stock which has been bred from parents of known quality is found winning the honors for its owner. When a new breed takes on the popularity, as has the Rhode Island Red, hundreds of fanciers all over the country become interested in the breed by the purchase of a trio or breeding pen, and in a large majority of cases the stock thus purchased is young stock—cockerels and pullets. Now, it is bad enough, unwise enough, to build the foundation of a thoroughly established breed of fowls of stock of unknown breeding quality. To do so with a new breed, one not yet perfected either in color or shape requirements, is the height of folly. Mr. Lester Tompkins, the most successful exhibitor of Single Comb Rhode Island Reds in America, here gives breeders of this fowl some facts which are of the utmost importance. Mr. Tompkins says:

As to the proper mating to breed Rhode Island Reds to produce ideal birds, it is the old story in a measure that like produces like, but as in other breeders, if you know your blood lines and what is back of the birds to be mated, you have more of a guide in guarding against defects.

To a beginner, in selecting females for breeders, I like hens best, but a novice is very apt to get deceived in his bird, as often after the moult, the very best ones, owing to condition at moulting time, will not appear to be the birds they really are. Many times just an ordinary hen will moult out bright and even, while a very fine colored bird will moult gradually, and by the time they are through some feathers will be practically old, others bright and rich, which will give her a very ordinary appearance. I do not mean to say they are all this way. While she may be far more valuable in the breeding pen than the smooth-looking one, still would not be considered by a novice in mating up his pen. Oftentimes the next season she might come out even and rich as when a pullet. Of course, one that holds color year in and year out we prize very highly. To the female we look for shape, size and Rhode Island Red characteristics. Also select as good head points as possible.

On the male bird depends color, to a great extent, also stamina, while a great deal depends upon surface color, as that is always in sight. Still, I think undercolor quite important as to breeding qualities. It may not always be the cleanest, purest colored or the darkest, but strength and richness are important.

Don't mistake my meaning of strength and richness, as it is not always the darkest bird that is richest. If a bird has pure undercolor and brilliant surface, very good. Sometimes a rather light male that is rich and bred from dark birds makes the best breeder. Avoid making extremes in color between male and female. If, as many say, my pullets run light, it is safer to darken by degrees than to attempt doing it all in one season by using an extremely dark male, as this is one cause of unevenness of color in the flock.

## LINE BREEDING

Line breeding is good, when properly carried out. Is all right for bringing out certain requirements; also fixing some of the points desired. One should thoroughly understand line breeding and Rhode Island Red characteristics before attempting it to a very great degree, as this breed was made by outcrossing for many years.

## OUTCROSSING

It is well known that Rhode Island Reds are the results of from sixty to seventy years of outcrossing, which has been the main factor in producing great strength and strong constitution and laying qualities, which are some of the principal points that have brought Rhode Island Reds to the present popularity. This feature cannot be overlooked to maintain ruggedness, but same as line breeding, one should be careful, as it is best to know your lines.

I think these points must be considered in maintaining the old-time vigor and hardiness of the breed. We often hear those good old-fashioned Red birds spoken of, which I believe can be produced today as good and better, if one will stop and think to use care in mating.

Get the old-fashioned type (which is a type that no other breed can claim) fixed in your mind, then learn the true color and stick to it, but do not take birds which were produced by accident and expect to breed standard birds in one season.

# MATNG SILVER GRAY DORKINGS

**Some of the Common Errors in Mating of the Grand Old Silver Gray Dorking and How to Avoid the Going to Pieces in Color of This Splendid Breed of Fowls—While Double Mating is Not Necessary Line Breeding is Very Essential—Even a Slight Deviation From the Proper Lines is Disasterous—The Importanceof the Female Line Here Shown**

The Dorking, the pride of England and the standard by which the market poultry of the world is judged, has at no time been a popular fowl in the United States. An English fancier who was visiting this country said to the writer last winter: "Conditions are not the same here as with us in England. I see plainly why you people do not breed to Dorking extensively. You Americans are too impulsive and impatient. Now the Dorking is the finest table fowl in the world. There is no doubt about it. But as it is not a rustler, able to do fairly well in egg production when given the scanty care the poultry of the United States is mostly given, you folks do not handle it. You could not, it would seem, concentrate your efforts in the production of either an egg machine or a market fowl. You must have what you call a general purpose fowl, something which you have not —never will have." And the Englishman spoke the truth. The Dorking is essentially a market fowl, and why we of this country do not specialize as they do in England tells the whole story of the Dorking's slight recognition here. Yet, with good care the Dorking is a pretty good egg machine, as its feeders will tell you.

The Silver Gray variety is the most popular, and throughout the eastern states is bred to a considerable extent. The Dorking exhibition at New York and Boston is always large, and birds of the best type are found in these shows.

A few years ago it was coneeded by the Dorking breeders of this country that we could not produce as fine Silver Grays as could the English fanciers. It was held that this was due to the fact that our climate was unfavorable. But of late years Watson Westfall, of Pennsylvania, and Henry Hales, of New Jersey, have shown specimens of their own breeding which here easily defeated some of the crack show birds of the mother country.

The Dorking is one of the most valuable and beautiful of all fowls, and will always occupy a very prominent place in the poultry world. Watson Westfall, the veteran breeder and fancier, tells us how to produce the best Silver Grays:

"The Silver Gray Dorking is a well established breed with a distinct type and character. Although they do not require any double or extreme mating to produce fine birds of both sexes, it has become known for some time that certain selected birds, bred in what I will name as a three-cornered mating, will produce the higest type of exhibition stock, and also a better and more uniform flock generally. In selecting the male preference should always be given to those nearest to standard requirements, as the best exhibition bird is always the one best to breed. With the female, however, there are two selections to make, viz., light and dark, the former to be for producing the best males and the latter best females, and it is for this reason I have given the name a three-cornered mating. The dark female which, like the male, is a standard exhibition specimen, will be among the darkest of the flock and her general color (top color) a slaty or silvery gray. The light female will be among the lightest of the flock and her top color an ashy gray. In making selections for these two classes of females a very good way is to catch and hold them together, comparing in this way their wings, back, breast, head, throat, and hackle. The wings and back of the darker female should be slaty or silvery gray, and the penciling or mottling extremely fine, being always as free from the shaft lines as possible. The breast should be a rich, bright cherry red, free from any mealy shading or edgings of a lighter color. Head and throat should be silvery white and as entirely free from any brown as possible. Hackle should be silvery white and a clear and distinct black stripe through the center of the feathers.

"The wings and back of the lighter female should be an ashy gray with penciling or mottling fine and as little of the shaft lines showing as possible. Breast should be a light salmon red, quite free from mealy shading or edgings of a lighter color. Head, throat and hackle should be silvery white, the upper part of the neck, the throat and head to be nearly clear white and the remainder of hackle as free from black as possible. A fully matured male bird should be as free from black on his white parts as possible and also as free from white on his black parts as possible. The white should not show creamy or rusty and the black should have the greenish shade. In form always get the largest body with the shortest legs. These two characteristics are of the utmost importance and it is quite natural for one to follow on with the other just the same as in the opposite where long legs give a small body. As a farther aid in making selections I will make the following list of defects which are to be avoided. First, the male: Overly large combs, irregular forms or short fourth or fifth toes, off side spurs, long legs, prominently white earlobes, stripy or short hackle and saddle, short back, high carriage of tail or any scanty appearance in its development. The females: Overly large combs, irregularly formed or short fourth or fifth toes, long legs, short back, fan shaped tail, also high carriage of tail, any very noticeable marking of brown on head, wings or hackle, very patchy or uneven color on breast."